



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Baltic Air Defense Expected To Aid in NATO Membership

WS2605150194 Tallinn BNS in English 1326 GMT
26 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 26, BNS—A common air space defense system of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania may create better chances for the three countries to become NATO members soon, officials expect.

"If the three Baltic countries reach a common system as to the technical and organizational level of their air space defense, this may become a strong starting point in their joining NATO. The NATO members have set up a common air space defense system which strongly ties these countries with each other," said Colonel Vello Loemaa, head of the air space defense division at the Estonian Army Central Staff.

All three Baltic countries have joined NATO's Partnership for Peace plan and are working toward setting up a common peacekeeping battalion to take part in UN operations by November 1995. Also these steps are expected to speed up movement toward full member status in the North Atlantic Alliance.

Air space defense chiefs of the three countries at a meeting in Lithuania's Meskuiciai air base Tuesday [24 May] signed a protocol about starting preparations for setting up a common air space defense system and joint training of pilots.

"We try to coordinate air space defense-related activity and develop it with minimum expense. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania currently are in a rather similar situation, but develop different contacts. We must make joint efforts to create a common air space defense system," Loemaa told BNS.

He said the Baltics are also considering the purchase of air space defense-related technology, including radars.

"This, of course, is a long-term program that will become a reality only after several years. But we expect to make the first concrete steps already this year," Loemaa said.

Lithuanian experts have estimated that setting up a structure to control the entire Baltic air space would take between 5 and 10 years.

Loemaa added that the defense forces of Latvia and Lithuania are better equipped with aircraft than the forces in Estonia.

Lithuania currently operates three air bases for its air force fleet of four Czech-made L-39 jet fighters, two L-140 transport planes received as gift from Germany, and tens of older Soviet-made AN-2 aircraft the country uses to train its paratroopers. Lithuania also has Soviet-made Mi-8 helicopters, mainly used by the country's rescue service.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Baltic Council Conference

PM2605135394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 94 p 3

[Galina Sapozhnikova: "Kozyrev Believes in Commissars"]

[Text] Tallinn—The third Baltic Council conference, which took place Wednesday [25 May], was attended by foreign ministers from 10 large and small sea powers including Russia and Sweden. The council was established two years ago in Copenhagen and authorized to jointly resolve problems of economic cooperation, the environment, illegal immigration, and organized crime.

But the main event for the country was the arrival in Tallinn of Andrey Kozyrev. Russian-Estonian talks had become stalemated, the last meeting between politicians at this level having taken place back in December 1992. So everyone was eagerly expecting Kozyrev in Tallinn.

In an exclusive interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the minister said: "We have nevertheless managed to create the post of supreme commissar for national minorities' affairs. He works mainly in the [former Soviet] Baltic countries. We have prevailed on the Council of Europe, which was quick to grant Estonia membership, to send a mission to Estonia; this mission now works there practically full time, and is also making fairly serious demands that the regime relating to our compatriots should be adjusted. And finally, this forum sees the appointment of a new commissar whose task includes strengthening democratic principles. But what kind of democracy are we talking about if almost one-third of the population are considered foreigners? You know, in order to secure ratification of this mandate, I was even obliged to issue a threat that I would not come to this meeting."

Division of Black Sea Fleet Viewed

PM2605130794 Moscow NOVAYA
YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian
26 May 94 p 1

[Mikhail Ivanchikov report under the "CIS Deadlocks" rubric: "We Will Divide Up the Fleet and Then Go Off and Vacation in the Crimea"]

[Text] The Russian-Ukrainian talks in Moscow on the future of the Black Sea Fleet are still far from over, although there is a decision in principle now—it has been resolved to divide the whole fleet virtually in half, with 169 ships going to the Russian side and 164 to the Ukrainian side.

However, confusion over the lists—what should go to whom—is delaying a resolution. This essentially simple solution to the situation—taking everything and dividing it all up—brings a wry smile to fleet officers' faces. After such a division it will scarcely be possible to speak of the Russian and Ukrainian fleets' possessing even basic combat effectiveness, because the Black Sea

Fleet was created as a single entity to carry out fully defined tasks. Moreover, another perfectly natural question arises here: Is Ukraine capable of maintaining such an enormous structure on its own, given the republic's very grave economic situation? And even that is not all. Financial difficulties aside, a whole raft of other problems arise, particularly cadre problems. It is not clear how and where the Ukrainian Navy commanders will train the officer personnel for their own fleet.

But the division of the ships is only part of the solution to the problem. The Russian ships will continue to be based in Sevastopol. However, the status of that city has still to be defined. The Russian side would like everything to remain as it was, but that does not suit Ukraine. A Russian military base in Sevastopol is fine; but Sevastopol as a whole as a Russian military base is not.

The delicate issue of the fate of the Black Sea Fleet is being decided on this occasion not by the presidents but by the Russian and Ukrainian heads of government, even though previously Kravchuk and Yeltsin were dealing with this problem on their own. The faulty-telephone play—the premiers themselves are not authorized to make any kind of final decision without the sanction of their presidents (Chernomyrdin and Zvyahilskyy are obliged to continually consult their chiefs)—also drags out the negotiations. It is no secret that relations between Borys and Lenya (which, according to Boris Nikolayevich, is how the chiefs of Russia and Ukraine used to address each other not so long back) have markedly cooled of late. As the saying goes, friendship is all very well, but money is a serious matter. And the reason for this was Yeltsin's message to Kravchuk after the official Ukrainian authorities stated that they were ready to pay the highest price for Crimea. Boris Nikolayevich did not beat about the bush: The Ukrainian authorities should not try to resolve the Crimean issue from a position of strength. Leonid Makarovich had a ready response: He stated that the Russian president's message to him was not in keeping with international norms, which, translated from diplomatic into colloquial language, means "Keep out of our business!"

Meanwhile, as many analysts note, inflaming passions over the Crimea plays into Kravchuk's hands. The upcoming presidential election has no attraction for Kravchuk. His only chance of remaining in the saddle is to postpone or call off the election altogether. However, that is a high-risk venture as, if he fails to keep the situation under control, in the eyes of international opinion he will lose the image of a politician who, despite everything, was able to avoid the worst-case scenario and keep Ukraine from collapsing.

Moscow has gladly joined in this game. Both legislators and representatives of the executive—literally all of them—have expressed their opinions on the Crimean events.

Taking their cue from the "battle of the iron chancellors," the local "Napoleons" have likewise gotten down

to political business. Thus—to the annoyance of the current Crimean authorities—pro-Ukrainian forces have announced the creation of a Crimean Rada, that is to say, a parliament. This is the third legislative authority now in being on the peninsula: A Crimean Supreme Council and a Crimean Tatars' assembly function in one way or another.

While the politicians are crossing swords, the people of the Crimea are worried by something else: What effect will the current battles have on the vacation season—after all, the more vacationers, the greater the takings. It is to be hoped that the inhabitants of the peninsula will not be the losers in this situation.

Central Asian Science, Technology Council Meets

LD2605202294 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0504 GMT 25 May 94

[Excerpts] The first sitting of the Consultative Council of the heads of state organizations for science and technology of the five Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—has been held in Tashkent. The new international organization was formed in line with the decision at the summit of the heads of states of the region.

The memorandum adopted in this connection outlines the basic areas for cooperation in the field of science and technology. The aim of the consultative council is to strengthen ties between the republics. The countries in the region will each formulate state science and technology rules. [passage omitted]

The scheduled sittings of the consultative council will be held in each of the five countries in turn. Many question on establishing useful and mutually beneficial cooperation still have to be examined.

Organization of 'Unrecognized States' To Be Set Up

PM2605120394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 94 p 1

[Sergey Bablunyan report: "Union of Unrecognized States Being Set Up?"]

[Text] Yerevan—Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic State Defense Committee, has told journalists in Stepanakert that an organization uniting unrecognized states will soon be set up.

It is expected that it will include—apart from the Crimea and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic—Abkhazia, Ajaria, South Ossetia, and the Dniester Republic. Robert Kocharyan expressed confidence that both the United Nations and the CSCE, as well as certain states, would have to take account of this newly created community.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 May
LD2705072994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0635 GMT 27 May

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—Russian newspapers on Friday run reports by their own correspondents and news agencies about the seizure of a bus near Mineralnye Vody by terrorists, the situation concerning the Crimea, the forthcoming arrival of world-famed writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in Vladivostok, and the Russian president's meeting with the leaders of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service (FCS).

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries excerpts from the president's report at the all-Russia meeting of the FCS.

"The country acutely needs reliable, intensively working special-purpose agencies. It is essential to remove the burden of totalitarian legacy and at the same time counter disruptive sentiments that hindered the work of fcs personnel," the newspaper quotes the president as saying.

NOVAYA YEZHIDNEVNAYA GAZETA (NEW DAILY NEWSPAPER) on the all-Russia FCS meeting:

"A wave of resignations and transformations in 1991-1994 has demoralised the FCS which lost both skilled personnel and monopoly on investigation operations".

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI interviewed Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential staff. "The circulation of rumours about personnel changes in the top echelon of powers turns nearly into a system. I would even say that leaks of information have become an instrument of political struggle".

Asked what renders state personnel unstable, Filatov said: "The frequency of personnel changes is influenced by the socio-economic condition of society and by the outcome of struggle between political forces".

Filatov views this as a transient phenomenon in present-day conditions, "because sometimes compromises are achieved through personnel reshuffles. A compromise in politics makes it possible to ease tension in society and stabilise the situation".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA continues to publish a series of interviews with Aleksandr Rutskoy. In this instalment, the former vice-president describes the "Lefortovo period".

"I pondered a good deal, assessing in-depth the entire spectrum of causes and circumstances that put Russia in the hardest crisis situation. Simultaneously I was writing two books *The Collapse of a Power* and *The Finding of Faith*. The former analyses all events that took place in the Soviet Union and Russia from 1990 to the October tragedy of 1993.

"After *The President's Journal* was published, I had to supplement my book with yet another chapter, taking a look at the October events from the position of the democratic press and the 'Journal'. Mass media hyped stories about Supreme Soviet snipers but none of them turned up either in Lefortovo, Butyrki or Matrosskaya Tishina prisons. Hence the question—which side the hired killers-snipers were from?"

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on the Crimean issue and Ukrainian-Russian talks:

"Despite the optimism with which some participants in the Moscow meeting spoke about the positions of the sides drawing closer together, the talks ended in failure, since from the very outset the Ukrainian side manifested a desire to resolve domestic problems at the expense of neighbours, as was the case during the talks on the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine".

PRAVDA on the same subject: "One still feels that it is beneficial for certain forces in Ukraine to maintain a heightened interest in the Crimea".

The newspaper quotes the Ukrainian publication NEZAVISIMOST, which shares the Rukh movement sentiments, as writing as follows: "The outcome of presidential elections, just as the future of Ukraine and the Crimea, is at stake. Leonid Kravchuk would either be out of reach for competitors, or he would lose the elections completely long before June 26".

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA analyses the recently issued six presidential decrees:

"Unfortunately we must note that upon the cancellation of quotas and licences which are taken stock of by means of computers, we shall have to rely fully on the strict observance of rules by customs personnel and on their integrity. Will that work?"

Chernomyrdin Meets PRC President Jiang Zemin*LD2705103894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0848 GMT 27 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Peking, 27 May—A meeting between Viktor Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Russian Federation Government, who is on an official visit to China, and Jiang Zemin, Chairman of the PRC, took place today in the state residence of Zhongnanhai.

"I believe that cooperation between the two countries is developing very successfully", Jiang Zemin said, opening the meeting. He expressed confidence that the visit of the head of the Russian Government would give a new boost to economic cooperation.

Viktor Chernomyrdin conveyed to PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin greetings from Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and his invitation to visit Russia in early September this year.

During the course of the meeting Viktor Chernomyrdin also pointed out that Russo-Chinese relations are flourishing and are not dependent on changes in the political scene. The level of mutual relations and cooperation which has been achieved between Russia and China gives hopes for Russian-Chinese relations to be switched to a higher stage—a stage of economic cooperation.

Signs Intergovernmental Agreements With Li Peng*LD2705063594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0606 GMT 27 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Beijing, May 27 (TASS)—An agreement on the regime of the Russo-Chinese state border was signed here on Friday by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister of the Russian Federation, and Li Peng, premier of China's Council of State, at the close of Russo-Chinese talks held by the official delegations of the two countries.

The two sides also signed another six intergovernmental documents: an agreement on the prevention of double taxation and income tax evasion, a protocol of the second session of the Russo-Chinese intergovernmental commission on technical, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, agreements on economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the agro-industrial centre, on cooperation in sea shipping, environmental protection, and on protection, regulation and reproduction of the living resources in the border sections of the Amur and Ussuri rivers.

Li Peng Calls Agreements 'Big Step' Forward*LD2705095394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0641 GMT 27 May 94*

[Text] Beijing May 27 ITAR-TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chinese Premier Li Peng on Friday held talks in Beijing. The agenda covered aspects of political, trade, economic, scientific, and military technical interaction of the two countries.

Before the two delegations sat down at the negotiating table, Chernomyrdin and Li Peng had a one-to-one conversation. "Russia and China—for all the differences of their internal conditions—have identical purposes of creating full fledged social-market economies and integrating in the world economy," the Russian prime minister said.

Chernomyrdin praised the results of cooperation between Moscow and Beijing last year when the value of bilateral commodity turnover reached a record-high amount of 7.68 billion dollars, but admitted that problems still existed which impeded the free development of mutually beneficial Russo-Chinese ties. He pointed to certain economic difficulties, the shortfalls in agreements and the backwardness of transport communications and infrastructures.

We think it advisable to strengthen the role of the centre in our trade and economic relations. We should also think about upgrading the level of cooperation," he said.

The Russian prime minister recalled that more than one half of trade exchanges between Russia and China is carried out as a simple commodity exchange. "This form is exhausting itself ever more," he stressed.

According to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the economic ties between Russia and China can be made more effective by investments of entrepreneurial capital. A case in point is the use of Russian natural resources and the building of agricultural projects.

Another promising direction, according to Chernomyrdin, is the creation of a flexible banking infrastructure and interaction in the field of civil aviation, nuclear power engineering and peaceful uses of space.

As concerns border issues, the chairman of the government of the Russian Federation pointed to the significance of their resolution in the interests of the further strengthening of bilateral relations. This work continues, he said.

The head of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation assured the Chinese premier that Moscow's position with regard to Taiwan is immutable. "We proceed from the assumption that only one China exists, and Taiwan is its inalienable part. Russia does not maintain official interstate relations with the island," he stressed.

Chernomyrdin invited Li Peng to pay an official visit to Russia.

In his opening address to the two delegations, the Chinese premier said good mutual understanding relating to many problems had been achieved during his one-to-one conversation with Chernomyrdin. He expressed the hope that Sino-Russian cooperation would develop, particularly in the economic sphere.

"China and Russia are great powers. The Chinese and Russian peoples are great nations. The two countries have a common border. China is interested in a steady expansion of comprehensive relations with Russia," Li Peng stressed.

He emphasized in particular the significance of the inter-governmental agreement, the signing of which will become "a big step" forward towards the turning of the Russo-Chinese frontier in an area of peace and friendship."

The head of the Chinese Government also expressed the hope that friendly relations between the Chinese people's republic and the Russian Federation would strengthen peace in the whole world.

As concerns trade and economic cooperation, the two sides agreed that the economies of China and Russia are "largely complementary" and expressed the desire to further expand this interaction, Li Peng said.

Russo-Chinese inter-governmental agreements were signed as a result of the talks.

Military Ties Developing 'Constructively' With China

LD2705093494 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
0702 GMT 27 May 94

[Text] Beijing May 27 *ITAR-TASS*—The military technical ties between Russia and China are being developed "constructively across a relatively broad range" due to a longstanding tradition of interaction, Russian Deputy Defence minister Andrey Kokoshin said in an exclusive interview with *ITAR-TASS* in Beijing.

The arms systems China has were developed on the basis of Soviet samples and are "genetically" related. For this reason the Chinese market is attractive to Moscow, which "views the development of such ties positively," Kokoshin said.

As concerns specific projects, the Russian deputy defence minister pointed to a contract for the delivery to China of several combat aircraft of the Su-27 series.

"it is a very good machine. It can remain in service until the year 2020 or even 2025 if properly modernised, I mean its armament and onboard equipment," Andrey Kokoshin explained. He stressed that "our Chinese friends made the right choice."

Karasin Cited on Consular Consultations in Beijing

PM2605145194 Moscow *IZVESTIYA in Russian*
26 May 94 p 3

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "Strict Visa Regulations No Obstacle to Chinese Criminals"]

[Text] The first Russian-Chinese consultations on consular questions in Beijing highly rated the joint actions of the two countries' law enforcement organs: It has become safe again to travel on the Beijing-Moscow train. *IZVESTIYA* was informed of this by Grigoriy Karasin, chief of the Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department.

According to Chinese special services data, over 70 gangsters have been arrested. At least 140 violations of the law have been detected, including fights, robberies, rape, and hostage-taking on trains, as well as criminal offenses in Moscow.

The Chinese criminals decided to head for Russia and Hungary posing as businessmen and students. But few reached Budapest, they settled mainly in Siberia and the Far East.

The criminals' calculations proved correct. Because the Chinese victimized "their own," they did not attract the Russian militia's attention for a long time. Finally, after receiving the signal from China, the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs sent a snatch squad onto the Beijing-Moscow train. The first four bandits were seized first and the militia arrested the others later.

Karasin reported that Moscow had spoken up for the Russian citizens detained in the PRC as "hostages." Russia's claims to the former USSR's property in 11 Chinese cities were also discussed.

An entry and exit visa procedure was introduced in January for Russians and Chinese holding general civilian foreign passports. But in recent months variant interpretations by the sides have emerged regarding the range of people who are also entitled to receive free multiple visas for official trips. It has been agreed to settle this question as well.

MFN Decision Denies Russia PRC 'Privileges'

PM2605175394 Moscow *IZVESTIYA in Russian*
26 May 94 pp 1,3

[Aleksandr Platkovskiy report: "Clinton the Businessman at Loggerheads With Clinton the Democrat. Most-Favored-Nation Status Given to China, But Not Russia"]

[Text] After agonizing reflection, President Clinton has adopted a decision to extend China's most-favored-nation [MFN] status in trade. He also intends to give up the policy of linking trade with the state of human rights in China altogether.

The president was subjected to powerful pressure from both sides. Human rights lobbyists demanded that Beijing be taught about civilized norms of behavior. The financial-industrial lobby warned of increased unemployment in the United States if multibillion Chinese orders were lost. Overcoming an inner divide, Bill Clinton nevertheless came to the conclusion that economic interests are more important than democratic principles.

Most-favored-nation status releases trade between two countries from barriers in the form of duties and tariffs. In the Americans' estimation, refusal to extend the status (following the events on Tiananmen Square, a procedure for renewing this status is conducted every year) would entail irreparable damage to American companies' positions in the Chinese market. U.S.-PRC trade turnover last year was over 27 billion. Boeing, for example, obtained fantastic profits by selling China the most airplanes. American manufacturers are counting on being able to secure very major deals with China, whose import demand in the next five years is estimated at \$400 billion.

A year ago Bill Clinton made a commitment to secure progress from Beijing in terms of the observance of human rights. In the past few months the Chinese authorities have released a number of dissidents. But at the same time, as our Beijing correspondent Vladimir Skosyrev reports, new arrests have been made. The fate of Wei Jingsheng, the civil rights activist who is the most popular in the West, and who disappeared from Beijing two months ago, is unknown.

American human rights activists are angry at the President's unprincipled attitude, pointing out that the Beijing leadership is doing nothing to initiate democratization. This subject is not fashionable in the major Washington offices at the moment. They are more concerned about how to use partnership with China to strengthen the U.S. position in Asia and worldwide. American diplomats are also counting on the hope that Beijing will help them cope with the unruly Kim Il-song, who is developing his own nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile all the indications are that the developing cooperation between Moscow and Beijing is causing a certain amount of concern in Washington. Russian business is obviously no competition against American business in the Chinese market. However, the weapons trade and stepped-up contacts between the Chinese and Russian military are making the Americans nervous.

Moscow is denied privileges that China has in trade with the United States. Russia has still not been granted most-favored-nation status.

PRC Ships May Use Russian Rivers Only in Daytime

*LD2605155494 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] Chinese ships, naval vessels included, will be allowed to navigate Russian border rivers in the Khabarovsk region's shores only in day time. Such a decision has been taken by the regional administration, which, pending the completion of appropriate bilateral diplomatic activity, imposed new rules for navigation on the border rivers.

From now on the Chinese side must inform a Russian border official about the number of ships, their names, and time of their passage one day in advance of sailing. However, vessels must keep clear of the shores, nor are they allowed to land people, accept them or cargoes on board, catch fish or engage in any research.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has been asked to speed up the drafting of complete rules for sail by Chinese ships from the Ussuri river into the Amur river and back.

As the commander of Naval Forces of the Russian Border Troops, Vice-Admiral Nikolay Kudinov has told INTERFAX, the issue on navigation on the Amur and Ussuri rivers will be discussed during a visit to China by Russia's Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Last year's bilateral talks on the issue ended inclusively [as received].

Davydov on Trade With China

*PM2605133194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 26 May 94 First Edition pp 1, 6*

[BIZNES-TASS correspondent Irina Bolshova report "especially for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA": "Moscow-Beijing: Green Light for Trade"]

[Text] In 1993 China became Russia's second biggest trading partner after the FRG, with a commodity turnover of around \$7.7 billion, Oleg Davydov, minister of foreign economic relations, stated in connection with the forthcoming visit to China by an official Russian delegation headed by Russian Federation Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin.

But a number of essential problems must be solved for the further development of bilateral economic relations, the minister noted. For example, the transportation backup for Russian-Chinese trade remains an acute problem. Owing to the absence of real possibilities for freight transportation, 25-30 percent of contracts do not come to fruition. Therefore, the expansion of the capacity of existing border crossings and the opening of new ones is necessary, as are the more active use of transit routes through Mongolia and Kazakhstan, the creation of joint transportation and transport construction companies, and the more active introduction of container transport.

In the minister's opinion, there is an increasingly urgent need for a partial revision of the terms of settlements under the 10 July 1985 intergovernmental agreement on economic and technical cooperation in the building and modernization of industrial facilities in the PRC. At the present time the clearing system of settlements under this agreement has lost its advantages and has effectively been reduced to interstate barter. At the same time the interests of Russian organizations have been significantly damaged as a result of the adoption by the Chinese side of a so-called "clearing" exchange rate of the Swiss franc (SFr) against the yuan (artificially lowered, according to the estimates of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, by 23-24 percent) and the restriction on the range of Chinese companies supplying barter [vstrechnyye] goods in Russia.

Oleg Davydov cited the problem of paying off loans granted by China to the former USSR as one question which has been "left hanging." The problem of the former USSR's debt to China on clearing transactions (around SFr808 million) and on the two state loans given in 1990-1991 to purchase consumer goods and food totalling SFr1.5 billion must be finally settled. The question of China's debts to the former USSR—around SFr66 million provided for the construction of the Wusu-Alashanhou highway—also needs to be resolved.

Transfer of River Islands to China Refuted

PM2605142194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 May 94 p 3

[Valeriy Golovin report under the "Talks" rubric: "The Foreign Ministry Is Authorized To State..."]

[Text] Khabarovsk—"The misgivings of people in the Far East about the possible transfer to the PRC of two large islands in the Amur River near Khabarovsk are absolutely groundless. According to all the realities of history, they belong to Russia. I am sure that in time the Chinese side will come to accept our logic and our arguments," Genrikh Kireyev, Russian Foreign Ministry special envoy and chairman of the Russian delegation at the border talks in China, stated at a press conference in Khabarovsk.

The Russian diplomat was meeting with journalists from central and local newspapers after the latest working meeting of the members of the Russian-Chinese joint demarcation commission had ended in this city. G. Kireyev also refuted rumors that 2,000 islands will be transferred to the neighboring country during the demarcation process. In all there are 1,845 islands in the border rivers—the Ussuri, the Amur, and the Argun. Legally speaking, they have never belonged to anyone. The demarcation will make it possible to remove that contradiction for the first time. Bearing in mind that the border line runs along the fairway of the navigable rivers, it may be presumed that one-half of the islands will be deemed Russian, the other half Chinese.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman did not agree that there is no single approach at government level to the assessment of the border problem in the east of the country. The members of the Russian delegation at the talks have a single directive—to uphold Russia's interests above all, he stressed.

However, the participants in the press conference still had some uncertainty over the unhindered passage of Chinese ships, including naval ones, along the fairway of the Amur River near Khabarovsk. This is indeed envisaged by the border settlement agreement between Russia and the PRC of 18 May 1991, which finally enabled the demarcation work to begin. That agreement says that special rules for such traffic must be devised. But this has not been done yet. Meanwhile, ships from the PRC sail here freely, often without even notifying the Russian side. This is causing a negative reaction from the local authorities.

Moscow Plans Economic Cooperation With China

LD2605184894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—Russia intends to develop trade and economic relations with China with all the means at its disposal, adhering to the "generally accepted rules of the game" in political issues, Mikhail Belyy, director of the First Asia Department at the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry, said to the ITAR-TASS correspondent in an exclusive interview.

Belyy mentions this year's visits to China by Kozyrev and Chernomyrdin, and to Russia by Jiang Zemin that promise to boost contacts.

"The Russian side is satisfied with the current level of cooperation. Last year bilateral trade reached a record level—7.68 billion U.S. dollars, while direct ties between enterprises and firms prevail. A considerable volume—more than 2 billion dollars—falls to the share of cross-border trade."

Belyy stresses the need to assess the present state of the economy and for the Russian Government to achieve a constructive partnership with China, both bilaterally and internationally.

Replying to a question as to whether the Chinese side is concerned about Russia's intention to take part in the "Partnership for Peace" with NATO, M. Belyy said: "We are explaining to the Chinese side that this program does not represent any kind of threat to China. It would seem that China has an understanding attitude to this issue and there will be no serious problems."

Belyy continues that major international problems will be discussed and stated that "we are interested in strengthening multilateral cooperation with China in

regional and world affairs." He adds that documents are to be signed on the Russian-Chinese frontier, cooperation in environmental protection, on the regulation of material and water resources in the Amur and Ussuri River basins, and on agriculture.

Replying to a question as to whether military agreements are being examined, the Russian diplomat asserted that no military deals will be signed. Normal business ties exist between the military departments, he added. A short time ago a batch of SU-27 aircraft was sold to China, there will possibly be additional deliveries. China is interested in acquiring a licence for the production of the SU-27, the conditions of this deal are being discussed. Russia is not however, preparing to sell China an aircraft carrier. In arms trading, Moscow, he noted, is guided by the principle of not harming its own security. We are also refrain from selling weapons that will destabilize the situation in the region. He also rejected as false the newspaper reports on possible "exercises" with the Chinese Armed Forces or "joint maneuvers" on Russian territory.

Replying in conclusion to a question about the "Taiwan" or "Tibet" aspect of Russian-Chinese relations, M. Bely stressed that with regard to Taiwan the development of ties is progressing along purely unofficial lines. The Russian diplomat expressed the opinion that "they have an understanding attitude in China toward the recent stay in Russia of the Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as well. Therefore, one should not dramatize this question."

U.S., Germany Offer Help Building Nuclear Waste Site

LD2605145594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Americans have offered Russia assistance in building a burial site for radioactive waste. However, they have also stated that nuclear waste from the United States should be accepted at the burial site as a condition for doing so. Germany has also come forward with a similar proposal. Viktor Kutsenko, a representative of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, said this in an interview for the RIA agency. He stressed that Russia would not agree to the country being turned into a dumping ground for nuclear waste.

Government Spokesman on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

LD2605181394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Russia is in favor of reaching agreed-upon decisions on the major provisions of a treaty on banning nuclear tests as soon as possible (by next spring), the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department, Grigoriy Karasin, said in connection with the talks resumed by the Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

Russia's Foreign Ministry views these talks as a major direction of its efforts in the current year, he stressed at Thursday's briefing. He pointed to Moscow's intention to "contribute to the endeavors to create favorable conditions for next year's conference on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

According to the diplomat, "Russia favors a realistic and evolutionary approach to developing the system of international control over the implementation of a treaty on banning nuclear tests, which would provide for using at its initial stage seismic methods, instruments for surveying radioactivity in the atmosphere, and on-site inspections."

Delegations To Work 10-12 Days on Fleet Agreement

LD2605164694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 26 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishan]

[Text] Three-day talks between the Ukrainian and Russian government delegations in Moscow on division of the Black Sea Fleet ended without result.

Vice-Premier Valeriy Shmarov told journalists that the sides took "time out of 10-12 days" after which an agreement on the first state of the Black Sea Fleet's division may be signed "on the basis of almost prepared text of the document."

He noted that despite efforts of both delegations "which worked for three days in two shifts," work has not been completed because every "subject of the division required great attention." Shmarov pointed out that the delegations of Russia and Ukraine "were on the verge of the document's readiness," however "some technical details had to be specified."

In the opinion of a member of the Ukrainian delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk, the final document was not signed at the talks "not at the fault" of Kiev. He believes that the Ukrainian delegation "showed enough flexibility and readiness for compromise." Tarasyuk said that the Ukrainian side offered during the talks five various drafts agreement.

At the same time he believes that the Moscow talks allows to speak about "burgeoning breakthrough," which "justifies the delay with the signing of the document."

Tarasyuk hopes that within 10 days Ukraine and Russia will manage at the level of experts to specify and coordinate conditions of the division of the Black Sea Fleet and the Russian Naval bases in Ukraine.

Karasin on Fleet Accord Preparation

*LD2605120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1113 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May—Russia and Ukraine need 10 to 15 days to resolve several outstanding issues and to prepare the documents for signing by the heads of government. Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department, said this at a briefing today in connection with the Russian-Ukrainian talks at heads of government level, which were held this week.

In the Russian capital, he noted that the parties did a great deal of intensive work to carry out the instructions of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine contained in the agreement on phased settlement of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet of 15 April 1994.

Dubinina Says Talks With Ukraine Not Useless

*LD2605150794 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 26 May 94*

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Yuriy Dubinin, who led the Russian delegation at the recent talks with Ukraine, has no doubt that the issues connected with dividing the Black Sea Fleet which remain unresolved "will necessarily be thrashed out."

As he told INTERFAX on Thursday, the talks between the Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and his Ukrainian counterpart, Yurkym Zvyahilsky, held in Moscow recently "cannot be qualified as useless." "The premiers and the two delegations did a lot of work and resolved virtually all the questions relating to the implementation of instructions issued by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine on April 15. A resolution has been drafted. There are only a few elements that need to be additionally studied and settled," he said.

The diplomat refrained from divulging the essence of the "elements that still need to be settled" and the agreements already reached. "We agreed with our Ukrainian partners that none of us will reveal the details of our future accords or allow 'leakages'," he said.

Nevertheless Dubinin said that only a few issues remain to be settled. 10 to 12 days were allotted for this, he confirmed. "We hope that after that an agreement will be signed," he noted.

According to Dubinin, the proposed agreement will be signed by the two countries' prime ministers. "This might take place in Moscow. After all the site of the next meeting is not of paramount importance," he said.

When asked whether the latest frictions between Ukraine and the Crimea were under discussion in Moscow, Dubinin said: "I heard not a single word about those problems."

Black Sea Navy Regrets Kiev's Inflexibility

*LD2605141094 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] The Black Sea Navy Command regrets that the negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian Prime Ministers in Moscow ended inconclusively. A senior naval officer has told Interfax that the Ukrainian side did not display enough flexibility over the issue on separate naval bases for Russia and Ukraine.

In his opinion, the Russian negotiating team accepted a tough compromise, that was not simple to do, as it offered Kiev to deploy Ukrainian ships close to the key Balaklava base near Sevastopol. The officer disclosed that the area is the chief submarine base for the Black Sea Fleet.

"If the Ukrainian delegation accepted the proposal, the naval command would confront the problem of submarines' redeployment. But Kiev ignored even such an offer by Moscow," the officer said.

In his opinion, the only reason for Kiev's intransigence is the lack of funds to modernize wharfs, build headquarters, and develop an infrastructure at a new place.

Meanwhile, he recalled that the Black Sea Navy Command had already cut electricity supply to some Ukrainian army units.

"If Kiev fails to pay off the debts, the command reserves the right to apply similar sanctions to other Ukrainian military units," he said.

Admiral Cites Concrete Discussion on Fleet Dispute

*LD2605123394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1152 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Russian navy commander-in-chief Felix Gromov believes that the major achievement of the three-day Russian-Ukrainian talks in Moscow was that the sides switched from general declarations to a concrete discussion of the Black Sea Fleet share deal.

He told TASS on Thursday that "a basis had been laid for future goal-oriented work".

According to the admiral, during the ten-day break in the talks experts from both sides will specify the list of ships of the fleet, will study all its bases and assess the cost of the navy and shore facilities.

It has been agreed in principle that Ukraine will get 18 per cent of the fleet, according to Gromov.

He said that both the Russian and Ukrainian delegations came to the Moscow talks with their own plans of solving the dispute. However, a common variant was drafted on the first day and became the subject of all discussions.

The second round of talks is to be held in Kiev.

Grachev Interviewed on Joining Partnership for Peace

LD2605190694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 26 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Mikhail Svetlichnyy]

[Text] [Svetlichnyy] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's official visit to Belgium that began today is undoubtedly closely connected to the NATO Council session that ended on Wednesday, and in whose work the Russian minister took part for the first time. It was the Belgian side's active support that to no small degree helped on this.

At today's news conference, Pavel Grachev stressed the special role played by Belgium and Defense Minister Leo Delcroix in bringing NATO and Russia closer together. The Russian minister said that the timescale for signing the partnership documents now depends not on Russia but on NATO, on how quickly it examines the parameters for partnership proposed by Russia.

In an interview for the NTV company, Belgian Defense Minister Leo Delcroix noted that it is simply necessary to take into account the weight and significance of Russia as a great nuclear power. For Russia is not Albania, with all due respect to Albania, he noted.

If relations between Russia and the western partners are more predictable, then evidently this cannot be said of the former eastern bloc allies. A question from a Polish journalist to Pavel Grachev on his attitude toward Poland's joining NATO seemed more than just strange, for according to her they are seriously afraid of complications in the internal political situation in Russia.

[Begin recording] [Grachev] What can we say when it is heard from the mouth of this Polish girl that they are saying that Poland wants to join NATO in order to ensure its future safety against the processes going on in Russia. What is this, a challenge?

But of course we will consider that this is a lack of understanding. At state level our Russian-Polish relations are good, and I hope that they will be strengthened.

[Svetlichnyy] During these two days have you had the feeling that some states participating in Partnership for Peace, present like you at the meeting, are playing a game against Russia? I mean the two days of the session's work.

[Grachev] You know I do not want to draw any final conclusions. But those states that make up NATO, or are part of NATO, I have reached the unambiguous opinion that these states want to see Russia inside Partnership for Peace. As regards other states who have signed up, you know it is still early, I repeat, to draw any conclusions.

There were no open yeses or noes. We will see. [end recording]

[Svetlichnyy] Today the Belgian and Russian defense ministers laid wreaths at the eternal flame in the center of Brussels. This may not just have been a formality. The Belgian minister has said that his country is ready to be an intermediary between Russia and NATO. One has the impression that it is frequently much simpler for Russia to talk with W. European NATO member countries than with her former E. European allies.

Russia Views Belgium as Bridge to NATO

LD2605172294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1652 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Aleksandr Mineyev and Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Brussels May 26 TASS—Defence Ministers Pavel Grachev of Russia and Leo Delcroix of Belgium emphasised today the role of Belgium as a major mediator and connecting link in development of relations between Russia and NATO with a view of their further rapprochement. They addressed a joint news conference here after today's talks.

Yesterday, Grachev started his official two-day visit to Belgium. It was mostly thanks to Delcroix that the Russian defence minister met for the first with his NATO counterparts on Tuesday. At that meeting, Grachev delivered an hour-long report on Russia's new defence doctrine and expounded upon Moscow's views of European security issues. Apart from this, he delivered to NATO Russia's proposals for parameters of partnership with this organization.

At today's news conference Grachev told reporters that Russia would sign shortly a framework document of NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, but only proceeding from the said parameters. The date of signing depends on how soon NATO will consider the Russian proposals. Their analysis at the expert level is being already carried out. Then, Russia expects NATO ministers to discuss and approve the proposals. After this, the two sides will just have to settle technical issues. "Now all depends not on Russia only", the minister pointed out, stressing the point at issue was exactly proposals, not any terms.

When asked about Russia's idea of a mechanism of consultations with NATO, Grachev said since Russia was not a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, it had no right to demand to be informed and consulted on

what country should be admitted to NATO and when, but certainly it will make its own conclusions about this. Consultations with NATO should above all concern peacekeeping missions. In this connection, the Russian defence minister recalled that he had criticized NATO's air strike upon Bosnian Serb positions, which was launched without preliminary consultations with Russia.

"Russia does not only want but will remain a great power", Grachev said. But it does not mean that Russia intends to exert pressure upon Central and East European countries or to direct them. "We favour equal partnership with these states upon mutual consent", he pointed out, adding that Russia views cooperation with other CIS countries as a top priority.

The Belgian defence minister told reporters that Grachev's meetings with NATO senior officials had promoted better understanding between Russia and the North Atlantic Alliance. Delcroix believes Russia is highly influential in the world and it requires an adequate treatment if NATO countries would like it to join the Partnership for Peace Programme.

Delcroix also reported that today's talks, at which the two ministers addressed each other not only as colleagues but as personal friends as well, concentrated on the NATO's partnership initiative, Russia's military doctrine and the situation in Bosnia.

Differences With NATO Over PFP Examined

PM2605123594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 May 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS observer Tamara Zamyatina article: "Russia-NATO: Will Partnership Come About?"]

[Text] The question of whether Russia will subscribe to NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program, and on what terms, is being decided now while Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is in Brussels, which houses the headquarters of the North Atlantic bloc.

A few days before Pavel Grachev arrived in Belgium, a group of Moscow journalists and scientists of the Russian Sociopolitical Center along with your correspondent visited Brussels, where the NATO leadership devoted the maximum attention to us to explain the essence of the partnership program.

Let me remind you that the invitation to states belonging to the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and to CSCE countries to subscribe to the partnership program was approved by the 16 NATO countries 10 January 1994. The framework document of this agreement proposes that each country should make an individual contribution to military cooperation with NATO and that joint peacemaking, rescue, and humanitarian operations should be conducted.

Eighteen countries, including several CIS states, have already responded to NATO's invitation to join the

partnership. In June their representatives will take their seats in a specially prepared office and will commence joint work.

But Russia, as is known, has put to NATO the condition that its great-power status be recognized and that our country be granted special powers within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program. Pavel Grachev's position was even more rigid: He repeatedly advanced a demand for preliminary consultations between the leadership of the North Atlantic alliance and Russia in the event of decisions being adopted on the forced establishment of peace in conflict zones.

NATO Deputy Secretary General von Moltke and also other leaders of the alliance, with whom we associated closely, told us gently yet adamantly that the North Atlantic alliance is prepared to take Russia's special status into account and to conclude an individual bilateral agreement with it, but only outside the program, participation in which presupposes equal terms for all countries.

To judge from the answer to a question which I put to the president of Russia on the eve of the Russian Federation defense minister's visit to Brussels, Boris Yeltsin gave Pavel Grachev instructions to defend the position declared by Moscow: To join the partnership, but to stipulate the simultaneous signing of a large-scale agreement between NATO and the Russian Federation. Thus, the question of Russia's joining the partnership remains open, as before.

The misgivings that the Russian authorities have about the NATO program are accounted for both by the fact that the USSR's former Warsaw Pact allies have joined the North Atlantic bloc alliance and, particularly, by the recent bombing strikes against Bosnian Serb positions in the former Yugoslavia, which were not agreed with Russia.

Proceeding from this, Russian politicians are focusing attention on the military aspect of the partnership program. On the one hand, they are concerned about the question of obligations relating to the joint ensuring of democratic control over defense forces, about which our military are, naturally, unenthusiastic. On the other hand, the problem of standardization of the NATO partners' military equipment, which could deprive Russia of sales markets for its armaments, is being raised repeatedly.

At the NATO headquarters, in response to misgivings of this kind, we heard arguments which merit attention. Participation in international structures really does bind countries in a net of obligations, Mr. Leroy, leader of a department, told us, but what is bad about that if joint obligations restrict states with regard to drastic actions without prior consultations? For this constitutes concern for collective security.

Developing this argument, NATO experts said that Russia's failure to subscribe to the partnership program

would give our internal opposition a clear trump card, and in that case there will be an increased potential danger of Russia's being drawn into conflicts.

Another counterargument by the Russian military against subscribing to the partnership program was the opinion that participation in it will mess up the CIS countries' collective security treaty. But, first, eight former Soviet republics have already joined the partnership with NATO. Second, overall membership of the program would be capable of ensuring global security "from Vancouver to Vladivostok."

In addition, it is also impossible to disagree with the argument that it is better to influence decisionmaking—which Russia seeks to do within the framework of the European and world community—by being within the structure and not being isolated.

On the other hand, the thesis that economic cooperation with developed countries is the priority for Russia seems fair. If we are invited to military cooperation, why not link this question to the opening up of European markets to goods from Russia?

Otherwise we get an undisguised picture of the desire of the United States and West Europe to bind Russia with obligations to maintain stability and security without reinforcing its membership of the partnership program with economic cooperation. Without the latter it will not be easy to find considerable additional funds in the Russian budget for Russia's dues for the "Partnership for Peace" program. Having adopted the political decision to subscribe to it, Russia still retains the right to draw up a bilateral agreement with NATO.

ITAR-TASS Reports U.S. Senate's Organized Crime Hearings

PM2705083194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 94 First Edition p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "United States Worried by Rising Crime in Russian Federation"]

[Text] The unprecedented rise in organized crime in Russia poses a serious threat not only to its national security but also to the interests of Western countries, including the United States, according to participants in Wednesday's [25 May] hearings at the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the U.S. Senate Committee for Governmental Affairs.

Problems of Ties with ROK, DPRK Viewed

PM2605122194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 May 94 p 3

[Anna Kozyreva article under the "Partnership" rubric: "Our Diplomacy Is Wavering Between Pyongyang and Seoul"]

[Text] The forthcoming official visit to Moscow by ROK President Kim Yong-sam, scheduled for 1-4 June, has

again drawn attention to the problem of Moscow's mutual relations with the two Korean capitals, Pyongyang and Seoul.

The ROK ranks among the 10 leading trading powers in the world and, in some economic sectors, is even a serious competitor to the West. Furthermore, a number of experts believe that South Korea's experience is more appropriate for Russia than America's or Europe's. If you take into account the geographical proximity of Russia to South Korea, too, it is perfectly possible to talk about the highly favorable opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

Despite that fact, business contacts between Moscow and Seoul have been developing less successfully than expected after the establishment of diplomatic relations in September 1990. And the plans were ambitious. The sides gave each other most-favored nation trading status, established telegraph and telex communications, and opened direct air communication between the capitals and sea communication between Vladivostok and Pusan. As a result trade turnover increased rapidly. However, in 1992 it had already begun to decline and in 1993 South Korea's total volume of trade with the CIS countries amounted to just \$2 billion. Russia, meanwhile, exports mainly raw materials and the South Koreans, despite having a high regard for its high-tech goods, are in no hurry to buy them.

As a result, a series of highly promising projects have not been implemented. For example, Hyundai and Lucky Goldstar International proposed taking part in oil exploration work in Kalmykia, in laying an oil pipeline from Yakutia via the DPRK to South Korea and China, in modernizing the Izhorskiy Plant in Leningrad Oblast, and in investing \$53 million to create a number of joint ventures with Soviet partners. In addition, there was a proposal to build a business center and a large hotel in the region of Nakhodka and Vladivostok (\$50 million) and a polypropylene plant in Tobolsk (\$30 million), and to develop a coal mine in the settlement of Yelginskiy (\$200 million). And so on. Now Seoul's decision to allocate the former USSR \$3 billion is viewed in South Korea as a mistake by the then President No Tae-u. And part of that money remains frozen.

This topic was discussed at the Institute of the Far East and the following aspect was noted. When it established official contact with us, the ROK expected that Moscow would be able to put pressure on the DPRK in the ROK's interests. Seoul would also have been happy if Russia had made a statement on the USSR's involvement in the launching of the Korean War of 1950-1953. But those hopes were not fulfilled and interest in Russia began to wane.

"Life shows that mutual relations with Seoul cannot be built without taking into account Pyongyang's opinion," Roald Savelyev, acting director of the Center for Korean Studies, believes. "Bias in favor of one of the partners could weaken our position in the region as a whole."

Roald Vasilyevich stresses in this regard that observing balance in mutual relations with the two Koreas is especially important for Russia. Take, for instance, timber procurement work in the Far East. For a long time North Korea's forestry workers treated our timber reserves quite barbarically. Thus it was decided to entrust this work to the South Koreans. The logic behind it was this: The South has more sophisticated timber felling techniques and has a more solicitous attitude to nature. That was indicated by the following fact: Just previously the ROK leadership had suspended the activity of Dusan Elektro Matriyel [name as transliterated], a leading firm in the microelectronics and computer industry, for dumping over 300 tonnes of phenol in the Nakdong River. A country which takes such care to protect the natural environment, it was thought, will set a good example to all timber producers. In fact it all proved otherwise. The international environmental organization Greenpeace, which monitored the work of the South Koreans, sounded the alarm: Russia's forests are still being plundered.

Of course, facts such as these are not meant for analysis at top level. We have the relevant articles in the criminal law which are supposed to prevent excesses of this kind. But the example is instructive. It testifies eloquently how dangerous illusions can be.

Political confusion also slowed down the construction of the oil pipeline from Yakutia via North Korea to South Korea. Pyongyang took a highly negative view of the fact that the USSR established diplomatic relations with Seoul. As a result the North Koreans sharply curbed their relations with us. Moscow played its part here, too, which led to the creation of a certain tension on the borders and in the region as a whole. Today Russian diplomats tend to blame it all on the USSR Foreign Ministry. However, in recent years they themselves have been pursuing the same line.

"Our interests, first and foremost the interests of security," Roald Savelyev says, "demand very precise and verified actions in dealings with the two Korean states. Yes, Pyongyang has North Korean interests to care about, Seoul has South Korean interests. But Moscow too must defend Russia's national interests. In the past we gave the North strenuous support in the spirit of internationalism but then we began to support the South equally determinedly. And as a result we reduced our ties with Pyongyang without acquiring new ones with Seoul."

The breakdown in economic relations was especially painful for us, my interlocutor believes. We built quite a few industrial facilities in North Korea, including battery-production and miniature electric motor plants, in the expectation of receiving output for our own needs. Now the agreements have been suspended and in Russia there is a shortage of vehicle spares, miniature motors, and many other products.

Are improvements possible? Undoubtedly. For that to happen, in the opinion of our experts, it is necessary to remove the seat of tension on our borders where there is permanent confrontation, not just political but military, too. There is a 35,000 strong U.S. corps in the South, and Patriot missiles are being brought in there now. There are also disputes over Pyongyang's nuclear program. The unification of the two countries, not as "total" as in Germany, of course, would lead to an improvement in the situation in the region. But even before that Russia must not lose the positions that it has won both in the north and the south of the Korean Peninsula.

I should like to hope that Kim Yong-sam's forthcoming visit will take place in the spirit of the establishment of truly equal and mutually beneficial relations. There is a Korean proverb: "They dug the well together, but only one drinks." We must make sure that we are not the partner who is left out.

Relief Regiment Departs for Dniester Trouble Spot

PM2605145394 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 May 94 p 1

[Report by Colonel Andrey Bondarenko of the Volga Military District Press Center: "Cossacks Going to Dniester Region"]

[Text] Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, has visited Totskiy garrison. He familiarized himself with the training of peacemaking troops of the 27th guards motorized infantry division to carry out missions in the Dniester region.

In the meantime, three transports carrying personnel, equipment, and arms of the motorized infantry regiment named for the Don Cossacks, set off for the Dniester Region to relieve the 27th division subunits which are serving in the "trouble spot."

There are 97 direct descendants of the Don Cossacks from Rostov-na-Donu and Rostov Oblast serving in this unit.

Russia Will Not Dictate to Central, Eastern Europe

LD2605123294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 26 May 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Brussels, 26 May—Russia not only wishes to, but will also remain a great power, stated Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, replying to journalists' questions at a joint news conference with his Belgian counterpart Leo Delcroix, held in Brussels today.

The minister stressed furthermore that Russia does not intend to bring any pressure to bear on the countries of

Central and Eastern Europe or to dictate its will to them. We favor equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with these states, he added.

Churkin Accuses Bosnian Muslims of Delaying Tactics

MK2605122894 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 26 May 94 p 4

[Sergey Tsekhmistrov report under the "Situation in the Former Yugoslavia" rubric: "Vitaliy Churkin: The World Has Seen Russia's Objectivity"]

[Text] Yesterday, talks on a Bosnian settlement began in France between representatives of the contact group (including Russia, the United States, the EC, and the UN) and the parties to the Bosnian conflict. The talks are held according to a decision by the great powers' foreign ministers that was reached in Geneva two weeks ago. There is every reason to hope that this time an agreement on halting hostilities in Bosnia will be reached. This is what Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said in an exclusive interview for KOMMERSANT-DAILY observer Sergey Tsekhmistrov.

According to Vitaliy Churkin, Russian diplomacy has conducted intensive work since Geneva, primarily to convince the Bosnian Serbs to sit down at the negotiating table. Presently one can state that their attitude to the Geneva documents is on the whole fairly positive. This conclusion can be drawn at least from the fact that the Serbs, who control over 70 percent of Bosnia, calmly reacted to the Geneva plan of Bosnia's territorial partition that gives 51 percent to the Muslim-Croat federation and 49 percent to the Serbs. At the negotiations that have just begun the Bosnian Serbs are represented by Momcilo Krajsnik, "the chief specialist on work with maps," who has already established fairly good contacts with Muslim Prime Minister Haris Silaidzic. The Serbs have also refrained from escalating hostilities, something for which the Geneva communique also called.

Unfortunately, the Russian diplomat observed, the Muslim-Croat side has so far not shown any desire to conduct a constructive dialogue. Mr. Churkin emphasized in particular that this conclusion should not be interpreted as "Moscow's pro-Serb stance." Russia is holding an objective stance regarding all parties to the conflict, which was confirmed by events in Gorazde. At present, representatives of the newly created federation (where the Muslims call the shots) question many provisions of the Geneva plan, including the principles of territorial partition and the cessation of hostilities for four months. One is getting the impression that the Muslims are also deliberately trying to delay the settlement in Gorazde by refusing to sign a special agreement with UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] (the Serbs have already signed it) so as to have an excuse to avoid halting combat operations in all of Bosnia.

To all appearances, Mr. Churkin said, the opinion seems to be still holding sway in the Muslim leadership that

much more could be gained on the battlefield than by dialogue. However, there are more than sufficient reasons to hope for success at the current negotiations. This, in turn, will pave the way to a new meeting of the great powers' foreign ministers, which could also be held in Geneva (but this time in the Russian mission, not the U.S. one—there should be parity after all!) in mid-May.

Events in Bosnia have somehow relegated to the back burner other hot spots in the former Yugoslavia, including the situation around Croatian Serb Krajina. Mr. Churkin did not hide his disappointment with the fact that, having started their dialogue with signing a cease-fire agreement, the sides have gotten bogged down in matters of procedure, for instance arguing over the venue of their next meeting. Changes in the leadership of Serb Krajina have also played a part. As a matter of fact, when at his first meeting with Milan Martić, the new president of Serb Krajina, Mr. Churkin said that Moscow's attitude to Krajina leaders would largely depend on how they cooperate in the investigation of the circumstances accompanying the murder of two Russian citizens, journalists Viktor Nogin and Gennadiy Kurennoy.

In that regard IZVESTIYA's hint in its 24 May issue that the Foreign Ministry has allegedly prevented publication of the results of the investigation by a commission of Supreme Soviet deputies under Vladimir Mukusev was not correct, Mr. Churkin said—"no Russian diplomat has ever thought of interfering in an investigation proceeding from political considerations, either major or minor, at least in the two years that I have been holding the post of deputy minister."

Moscow To Appeal to UN Over Fighting in Bosnia

LD2605151694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Russia's representative at the United Nations was instructed to appeal to the U.N. Security Council, initiating a discussion of military operations which are being carried out by the Bosnian Government Army against Bosnian Serbs, said director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, Georgiy Karasin, at a briefing held here today.

"The aim of the Russian diplomacy is to prevent further deterioration of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole," the Russian diplomat said.

"Russia is particularly concerned about an unstable situation around Tuzla, Moslem refusal to join the agreement on a safe area of Gorazde and increased shelling of the area of Brsko controlled by the Serbs," the Russian diplomat said.

Kozyrev Speaks on European Stability at Paris Conference

*LD2605182594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1736 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov, Andrey Krasnoshchyokov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris May 26 TASS—The collective initiative of the European Union to hold a conference on the "Pact on Stability in Europe" is in tune with Russia's care about the strengthening of stability on the European continent, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated speaking at the international forum which opened at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris today.

The present conference, the top Russian diplomat noted, is yet another attempt to "tackle seriously the extremely dangerous manifestations of aggressive nationalism, xenophobia, ethnic and religious intolerance".

Russian foreign minister reiterated that the initiative to organize this conference concerned nine states of Central and Eastern Europe which agreed to it. They are preparing to become members of the European Union and wish to discuss the problems connected with the condition of national minorities and fraught with possible complications.

It is quite natural, Andrey Kozyrev said, to seek to link this work to the context of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and rely on support from the countries participating in the all-European process.

"Certainly, within this framework Russia is prepared to make its own contribution in such a form which will be considered expedient," the Russian foreign minister elaborated.

He believes that the main thing is that the chosen negotiating model—the organizing of regional tables—should not lead to duplication, to weakening of the existing international institutions and negotiating mechanisms but concentrate on concrete steps for the establishment of inter-ethnic relations and the guarantees of the rights of national minorities.

"This is particularly necessary for the three Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

The problem of national minorities is inseparable from the general establishment of goodneighborly relations, the Russian minister said, and the work on the "Pact on Stability in Europe" is to become yet another contribution to the formation of unified Europe of partnership and prosperity which must succeed not only Cold War but also uncertainty of the post-confrontation period. In this context, he noted, discussing of issues related to state borders just as national minorities, should be held exclusively within the framework established by the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"The enhancement of the effectiveness of the CSCE and its transformation into a supreme political organization on the European continent is a key element of the concept of the all-European partnership put forward by Russia," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

The head of the Russian foreign office expressed hope that the forthcoming summit meeting will strengthen a special role of the CSCE and its responsibility for the general development of European affairs. In the near future, he said, Russia will submit comprehensive and concrete proposals on these issues.

The merit of the present Paris conference, the minister emphasised, is that this forum is considering the problems of stability "from the angle of democracy and human rights but not in the military context". At the same time, he noted, military and political aspects must find its place in the course of wider efforts.

In this connection Andrey Kozyrev dwelt on mutual relations between Russia and NATO. Russia, he said, will join "the Partnership for Peace" program and sign a corresponding framework document with NATO along with a substantial program of cooperation which certainly will reflect a special role of Russia as a nuclear power.

"We stand for the deepening of equal partnership between Russia and NATO without mutual vetoes and surprises," the foreign minister accentuated.

Andrey Kozyrev expressed confidence that the Conference on Stability in Europe would be an important link in the process of forming the all-European future which may become a reality only with the help of joint efforts by all states.

Kozyrev Meets With Balladur, Juppe in Paris

*LD2605145694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1235 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov, Andrey Krasnoshchekov, and Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris, 26 May (ITAR-TASS)—During the interval between plenary sessions of the Conference on Stability in Europe a meeting was held at the initiative of France between French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, and Andrey Kozyrev. Galina Sidorova, political adviser to the Russian foreign minister, told ITAR-TASS that the French leaders thanked the Russian minister for his agreement to take part in the conference and for Russia's active support for the idea of holding it.

The main subject of the conversation was ways of deepening relations between Russia and the principal European institutions. The Russian side believes that this process has not yet gathered sufficient momentum. The French leaders, for their part, called for the earliest possible conclusion of an agreement on partnership

between Russia and the European Union [EU]. They stressed that Paris no longer sees any obstacles to completion of the negotiating process. All outstanding issues were settled during the recent official visit to Russia by A. Juppe. As we know, the main differences concerned conditions for trade in materials of the nuclear fuel cycle.

France considers that the conclusion of an agreement on partnership with the EU must be followed by further integration of Russia with other European organizations.

The entire atmosphere of the talks and the fact that the Russian minister was the only participant in the conference received by the French leaders so early in the conference testify to the present level of Russian-French cooperation, including cooperation in the preparation of this important forum.

Kozyrev Views Paris Talks on European Stability

LD2605192994

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 26 May, in the framework of its "Details" program, carries a 10-minute report by Vera Kuznetsova on the visit by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Paris, where he participated in the international conference on stability in Europe. She interviews Kozyrev in the lobby of the conference hall in Paris.

Stating that the visit took place at the time of acute complications in Russia's relations with Ukraine, the Kuznetsova points out that Kozyrev did not try to intrigue against Ukraine in Paris but, on the contrary, reiterated that Russia respects the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

She adds that Kozyrev was the only foreign minister to be received by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur after the conference today. She then asks Kozyrev why he was given such preferential treatment. Kozyrev replies: "I think one of the reasons is the intensity of the Russo-French dialogue and, in fact, our conversation was a direct sequel, as it were, to the conversation that took place between President Yeltsin and French Foreign Minister Juppe in the Kremlin a short while ago. In actual fact, the prime minister asked me the same questions and requested that we discuss our present position with regard to the points agreed during the conversation with the president. So this is not really my own achievement but a continuation of the dialogue begun by the president in the Kremlin."

Asked to explain what "points" he mentioned, Kozyrev said: "First and foremost, the agreement between Russia and the European Union. It is high time we reached the home straight, as the saying goes. I should say that after the meeting between the president and Mr. Juppe and our negotiations today, we are very close to finalizing this agreement; we are literally inches away from it, so we acknowledged our great progress on this matter.

"The second point is Balladur's plan itself, which we are discussing at the conference here. We have certain concerns about the border issues, among other things. In his speech, M. Balladur interpreted the question of borders in such a way—and this is also how this is stated in the text of the document—that the point under discussion is how to improve the climate on the borders by creating transparent borders, facilitating trade, simplifying travel regulations etc. Of course, there can be no doubt that we are very interested in these things. But some politicians in the Baltic countries—I am just back from Estonia—have a different approach to the question of borders."

Kuznetsova then asks Kozyrev if by this statement he means that Russia recognizes the territorial integrity of Ukraine with the Crimea as its part and that the Crimean issue should not reemerge in the future. Kozyrev answers: "We recognize Ukraine's integrity because it is a member of the United Nations, the CSCE, and the CIS, and because it has been recognized within its present borders. And of course we support the principle of inviolability of borders which means that countries should not lay territorial claims upon each other and should not resolve such issues by force. At the same time, this principle leaves to the population of certain regions the right to determine their will—naturally, by peaceful and not military means—so that subsequently the border can be changed through talks. Thus, the will of the population of the region in question is needed together with a peaceful negotiating process. That is, this principle does not mean that borders can never be redrawn but it creates certain civilized procedures for this."

The interviewer reminds Kozyrev that he described the format of the Paris conference as "12 plus 9" and asks what status Russia had at this meeting. Kozyrev replies: "The format of the conference is as follows: There are the 12 states of the European Community and 9 candidates who have agreed to discuss with these members of the European Union questions relating to ethnic minorities etc, so that the Union should not admit as members those states that could explode. As a European state and as a member state of the CSCE, we are ready to participate in the discussion of these questions because we are all one family and we are not indifferent to the way in which these questions will be tackled."

Kuznetsova then says it is almost settled that Russia should join the European Union, the G7 and the NATO's Partnership for Peace shortly, and asks Kozyrev whether he considers Russia's claim to a special role in the partnership justified. Kozyrev replies: "Yes, certainly. It would simply be unnatural if we forgot about the special role we have thanks to our being a nuclear power if for nothing else. No other participant in this partnership is a nuclear power. This may be a mere trifle, but a pleasant one, I should say."

Paris Club Debt Rescheduling Problem Assessed

*PM2605135594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 May 94 p 2*

[Aleksey Portanskiy report: "Italians Will Have To Be Persuaded To Grant Debt Deferment"]

[Text] The Russian Government has sent a letter to members of the Paris Club of creditor countries agreeing to hold a meeting in Paris 3 June on the question of extending the deadlines for payments of the former Union's debts due in 1994. This was reported Tuesday [24 May] by Russian Government Vice Premier A. Shokhin.

Let me remind you that at the beginning of April last year we concluded the first agreement with the Paris Club on restructuring the former USSR's debts, which gave the country an important financial breathing space. But that agreement applied only to payments due in 1993 and it has already formally expired. However, Moscow agreed with its creditors that it would remain in force until there is a new agreement.

Originally \$4.7 billion was allocated to service the debt this year, which represents only a fraction of the total sum due for payment in 1994. In cutting all state expenditure, the State Duma has reduced this figure to \$4.1 billion. But even this may not be final—the Italians' position could cause adjustments to be made.

The point is that in the last years of the USSR's existence Moscow clearly accumulated an excessive amount of loans, a fair number of them from Italy. Hard bargaining over this has been going on with the Italians for many months now: We say that these debts are Soviet but they insist that they are Russian. Accordingly, if we get our way, the matter in dispute—the round sum in foreign currency—will be subject to restructuring along with the rest of the Union's debts, or to put it simply—we will pay later. But if Rome comes out on top we will have to pay now. Here everyone realizes that Moscow is trying to maintain Russia's creditworthy image by not accumulating purely Russian debts.

The Italians have enlisted the support of Paris Club members in its claims. But our resources are limited in any case. Hoping that our creditors are sufficiently well aware of this, we are saying that we are prepared to pay Italy but in that case there is unlikely to be anything left to pay other creditors.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Cambodian King's Peacemaking

*LD2605193294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1526 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Russia welcomes Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk's peace-making initiative on the holding of a round-table with the participation of representatives of all Cambodian political forces in Pyongyang at the end of May. The round-table is aimed at reaching an arrangement on the introduction of ceasefire throughout Cambodia since June 13, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Thursday.

"We think that the realisation of this proposal would facilitate to implement one of the main internal political goals of Cambodia—to complete the process of national reconciliation in the country. We hope that the king's appeal will be equally well heard in all corners of Cambodia," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Problems Remain in Kazakh Dual Citizenship Accord

*MK2605121894 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA
GAZETA in Russian 26 May 94 pp 1, 3*

[Sergey Kozlov report in the "Russia—Kazakhstan" column: "Alma-Ata Has Not Given Way to Moscow Over the Issue of Dual Citizenship. But In Two Months the Situation Could Change"]

[Text] The question of dual citizenship, which in the last few months (especially since Kazakhstan introduced its own currency) has become one of the most problematic issues in the dialogue between Moscow and Alma-Ata [Almaty], was also a central point in the Russian-Kazakh talks that have just ended. The Russian delegation at the meeting in Alma-Ata was headed by Abdulakh Mikitayev, chairman of the Commission on Citizenship under the Russian Federation president. Acting also as Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy during this visit, he conveyed a message from him to Nursultan Nazarbayev. Mikitayev also met with representatives of Russian public organizations from Alma-Ata and Taldy-Kurgan. Judging by the results of the talks, the main Russian-Kazakhstan contradictions were not resolved this time either. Alma-Ata still does not accept the idea of dual citizenship while Moscow (true, not so decisively as before) is trying to keep this subject on the agenda of the negotiations.

"We believe," Abdulakh Mikitayev stressed after the meeting with Kazakhstan officials, "that this institution will become a token of trust between states. Therefore the signatories to this agreement will confirm to their citizens that they will live in peace and friendship in the future."

The Kazakhstani officials' main argument against dual citizenship is that it could affect the evolution of the young state. Alma-Ata also maintains that in this event, more than half the Kazakhstan population would be

placed in a privileged position compared to the indigenous population. But, according to Mikitayev, all these problems could be settled through separate bilateral agreements.

Speaking about the problem of loyalty which could emerge, according to some experts, the head of the Russian delegation said that the Russian draft resolution on the issue "contains no such notion as 'dual loyalty'; at any rate, we do not stipulate it. Loyalty can be only with respect to the state where a person resides permanently." Legal grounds for such a formulation of the question could be provided by Article 4 of the Kazakhstan Constitution which says in particular: "A person who is a citizen of the Kazakhstan Republic is not deemed as enjoying the citizenship of another state with the exception of cases stipulated under the present Constitution and the state treaties of the Kazakhstan Republic. All the republic's citizens who were forced to leave its territory, as well as Kazakhs living in other states, shall have the right to hold citizenship of the Kazakhstan Republic along with citizenship of other countries provided that this does not contradict the legislation of those states whose citizens they are."

Incidentally, Kazakhstan officials have more than once tried to give an excessively "liberal" interpretation to this article which, as international observers have noted repeatedly, has an ethnic coloring, stressing primarily the formulation: "Citizens who were forced to leave its territory." The absurdity of such an approach, renowned Kazakhstani lawyer Vitaliy Voronov noted at a recent international human rights conference, is belied by the very practice of local and immigration authorities, whose arbitrariness had to be curbed by President Nazarbayev himself with a special edict which defined the limits of kinship to help overcome ethnic and bureaucratic barriers for reunification with relatives.

The "expanded" wording again refers only to the ancestors of "indigenous" representatives of the republic's population who were forcibly moved, mainly to China after 1917 and after the well-known famine in 1930-33. However after 1917, as is known, many representatives of other ethnic groups left Kazakhstan as well, in particular, Uyghurs and Tungsans. Also Cossacks.

Yet today everybody in Kazakhstan (even officials) understand very well that it is virtually impossible for these immigrants who "have temporarily left" Kazakhstan territory to come back or acquire Kazakhstan citizenship (let alone dual citizenship, under Article 4).

Furthermore, Mikitayev noted, the sides could start implementing Nazarbayev's idea about creating "a single citizenship space" even now. As concerns an exodus to Russia, this process also worries the Russian side greatly. According to Moscow, in 1988, 23,600 people left Kazakhstan; in 1989, 53,000; in 1990, 306,000; in 1992, 369,000; and in the nine months of 1993, 247,000.

It needs to be noted that these figures hardly reflect the true picture of emigration because the Russian embassy in Alma-Ata registers far from all those leaving.

Nonetheless, Abdulakh Mikitayev was optimistic and assured that an agreement regulating the question of citizenship will be concluded within the next two months.

Prisoners Transfer Treaty Signed With Azerbaijan

*LD2605201894 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1707 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] Russian Minister of Justice Yuriy Kalmykov and Azerbaijani Minister of Justice Ilyas Izmailov signed a state treaty on transfer of prisoners for punishment in Moscow today.

In accordance with this document foreigners convicted for crimes will have an opportunity to undergo the appropriate punishment in their native land. The treaty underlined that a prisoner can be transferred only if he agreed to.

Izmailov told journalists that about 400 Azerbaijan citizens were undergoing punishment on Russian territory. Approximately the same number of Russians have been imprisoned in Azerbaijan.

Izmailov emphasized that the treaty would not concern those sentenced to death. He said that the treaty aimed at bringing those convicted back to a normal life, which was impossible in a foreign country.

Kalmykov stated that Russia intended to sign similar treaties with Moldova and Ukraine. He pointed out that Russia stood for the development of juridical relations between the CIS states in what concerned not only criminal but also civil and family cases.

The Russian-Azerbaijani treaty requires ratification by the parliaments. It will come into effect thirty days after ratification.

Greek Foreign Minister's Visit Rescheduled to 31 May

*LD2605210494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1951 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—New dates have been fixed for Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias's official visit to Moscow. He will arrive in Moscow on May 31 and stay until June 2, Grigoriy Karasin, Information and Press Department director in the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing held today.

The reason of putting off the dates is linked with the fact that the both ministers had been busy attending different international forums, Karasin noted. "However, the aim

of the forthcoming talks - the continuation of an active Russian-Greek political dialogue - remains unchanged," the spokesman said.

State Duma Chairman Receives Iraqi Ambassador

LD2605210594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1928 GMT 26 May 94

[By an ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The majority of deputies of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, believes that a sensible pragmatism should dominate in the Russian foreign policy, chairman of State Duma Ivan Rybkin said, receiving Iraqi ambassador in Russia Hasan Fahni Jum'ah on his request today.

"I want to tell you frankly that we would like to establish cordial and friendly relations between Russia and Iraq," the State Duma chairman said. He noted that with all changes taking place in Russia, the state leaders should not forget their old friends while making new friends.

Hasan Fahni Jum'ah, who has been performing his duties over the past five months only, emphasised Russia's influence at the international arena. "Taking into consideration a great potential of the Russian people, one can say that Russia will soon regain its past status in the world and restore the balance, which was completely destroyed during the recent years," the ambassador said.

Hasan Fahni Jum'ah and Ivan Rybkin also discussed the strengthening of bilateral, interparliamentary cooperation between Russia and Iraq, the State Duma press service informed ITAR-TASS.

Delegation Ends Visit to Argentina; Menem To Visit Moscow

LD2705101294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0841 GMT 27 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Viktor Dmitriyev and Aleksandr Trushin]

[Text] Buenos Aires May 27 TASS—A delegation of the Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian Parliament, led by council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko left the Argentine capital for Brazil on Thursday in a tour of a number of Latin American countries.

While in Argentina on an official visit, Shumeyko met with President Carlos Menem and Guido di Tella, minister of foreign affairs and religion, and had meetings with Argentine Parliament leaders and representatives of the business community.

Russia and President Yeltsin can fully count on Argentina in the realisation of political and economic reforms, Argentine President Carlos Menem said here on Thursday during a meeting with Shumeyko.

Mr. Menem expressed gratitude for the invitation, which President Yeltsin extended to him earlier, to visit Russia and confirmed that he would pay a visit to Moscow in October this year.

At Shumeyko's request, President Menem described Argentina's experience in carrying out a radical economic reform and, specifically, in achieving financial and economic stabilisation, curbing inflation and privatising state property on a large scale.

As a result of the meeting with Carlos Menem, it turned out that the Argentine people had thought it would take a decade to carry out privatisation. However, five years elapsed, and privatisation is already being completed. Argentine experience in privatising railways and merchant marine is of special interest to Russia which does not yet venture to privatise these branches of the economy, Shumeyko told ITAR-TASS.

During Shumeyko's meeting with Guido di Tella, Argentine minister of foreign affairs and religion, it was emphasised that President Menem's forthcoming visit to Moscow would become an important landmark in the history of relations between Argentina and Russia. The minister said the visit would serve as a signal to Argentine businessmen that the president devotes much attention to Russia.

Guido di Tella highly appreciated the results of his recent visit to the Russian Federation, stating that after the visit he became "the most active populariser of Russia" in Argentina.

The Russian parliamentary delegation was received in the national congress of Argentina on Thursday.

In response to a question about the first results of the parliamentary delegation's tour of Latin American countries, Shumeyko told ITAR-TASS that the delegation members feel that people both in Chile and Argentina take genuine interest in the developments in Russia.

"Direct contacts with Latin Americans convinced us that they want to gain an understanding of the complex processes taking place in our country," Shumeyko pointed out. "contacts in Argentina, primarily those with the business community, give ground to believe that there are good prospects for fruitful mutually beneficial cooperation between Argentina and Russia," he said.

"We are young politicians. The future belongs to us. Therefore, we shall never agree to the old notions about the division of the world into blocs and to the existence of the very term a "third world." We look for new partners, seeking benefit for Russia. In this sense, Latin America is of great interest to us," Shumeyko said.

Panamanian Foreign Minister on Improving Relations

*LD2705102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0847 GMT 27 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Panama May 27 TASS—Relations between Panama and Russia must be intensified and expanded, according to Panamanian Foreign Minister Gabriel Galindo. He said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS that "we are aware of the fact that there is much to be done to take relations between Panama and one of the world's great powers, Russia, to a level which both countries find satisfactory. Nonetheless we can state with satisfaction now that a groundwork has been laid for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation. The Panamanian foreign ministries of Panama and Russia [as received] has made steps lately which led to an exchange of consulates general. We regard this as a good beginning".

According to the Panamanian minister, Russia can use Panama as a "gateway for penetrating Latin America". These gateways can provide an opportunity for the

supply of Russian technologies to the countries on that continent and exports of manufactured goods, equipment and raw materials. "We would like Russia to be a partner capable of making a better use of our services, which are undoubtedly the most effective in the region".

"The liberalization of the Russian economy enables Panamanian investors to consider seriously prospects for the participation in joint ventures on Russian territory. Our diplomats in Moscow will be entrusted with bringing home to the Russians what advantages cooperation with us can give your entrepreneurs. A case in point is the opening of a Russian bank in our international financial centre," the minister said.

The Union of Banana-Exporting Countries with its headquarters in Panama, is now studying the possibility of exports to Russia and Eastern Europe as a whole, an area which has a huge and promising market, the minister said.

Gabriel Galindo is a member of the government which is being formed by president Ernesto Perez Balladares who won the country's general elections on May 8. The new government will take office on September 1.

Political Issues

Shakhray Rescinds Resignation as Vice Premier

LD2705104494 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1018 GMT 27 May 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—Sergey Shakhray on Friday said his resignation as vice-premier is no longer on the agenda. "The president did not accept my resignation and I found it incorrect to insist further," he said in an interview with *ITAR-TASS*. Shakhray added that republics and other regions within the Russian Federation had sent many appeals to the president not to accept his resignation.

Shakhray said he discussed with President Yeltsin different aspects of the regional policy, including the signing of the agreement with Kaliningrad, the regulation of relations with the Chechen Republic and a mechanism implementing the treaty with Tatarstan.

Explaining his recent moves, including the announcement of his resignation, Shakhray referred to the breach of office ethics in dismissing him from the post of the minister of nationalities and regional policy. According to Shakhray, "it is not ethical to work on the president's team and announce one's disagreement with things. I do not want to repeat the behavior of some politicians". These were the motives behind his announced resignation.

As concerns his relations with the newly appointed Minister Nikolay Yegorov, Shakhray said he would "help the new minister of nationalities and regional policy. I wished him well when introducing the man to the ministry collective. Now everything will depend on himself".

To Continue Overseeing Regional Policy

MK2705083494 Moscow *KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian* 27 May 94 p 3

[Mariya Bogdanova report: "Sergey Shakhray Stays On as Deputy Prime Minister. Shumeyko and Yegorov Get a Supervisor"]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party for Russian Unity and Accord, is expected to meet with Moscow State University students today; tomorrow he will attend a seminar at the "Lesnyye Dali" guest house outside Moscow designed to help draw up a nationalities policy concept. Sergey Shakhray will emerge before the audience as a victor: The president did not accept his resignation from the post of deputy prime minister.

Boris Yeltsin, pointing a week ago through his press secretary to Sergey Shakhray's "capriciousness," was nonetheless forced to indulge the unsinkable politician's whims. On Wednesday evening he told Sergey Shakhray during a private meeting that he would not accept his

resignation from the post of deputy prime minister. Sergey Shakhray managed to show yet again how much he matters for the Russian authorities and to prove that his opponents' seemingly final victories are never final.

By some accounts, it was representatives of the "Siberian Accord" interregional association and some regional leaders—evidently very far from the south from which the new minister, Nikolay Yegorov, arrived in Moscow—who threw their weight behind Shakhray in the Kremlin. Mintimer Shaymiyev, together with whom Shakhray made a proposal the other day on the Crimea problem settlement, might be one of them. As a matter of fact, during the meeting with the president, they discussed the implementation of the treaty between Moscow and Kazan and the preparation of a similar treaty with Kaliningrad.

According to the press service of Shakhray's party, he promised to the president that he "will work" to ensure coordination between the government, the Federal Assembly, and the future Constitutional Court, to supervise the mass media, and to continue to oversee regional and nationalities policy. The latter obviously bodes no good to the Krasnodar team of Shumeyko-Yegorov, which could have been almost fully in control of relations between Moscow and the regions if Shakhray had finally left the government. While under them a speedy start of talks between Moscow and Grozny has become a fairly realistic possibility, now Shakhray looks certain to continue his relations with the Chechen opposition along parallel lines.

Yeltsin Addresses Counterintelligence Conference

Warns Organized Crime Seeking Power

LD2605204094 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1758 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed extreme concern over the criminalization of society. Speaking at the All-Russian conference of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service [FCIS] in Moscow on Thursday, he pointed out that "violent crimes by organized groups take the form of criminal terrorism."

In Yeltsin's words, "the corruption of power structures, law-enforcement and other state bodies especially in the sphere of redistribution of property is extremely dangerous for the state."

The Russian president noted that "organized crime is already not confined to the sphere of regular crimes. It seeks to enter big politics, to gain access to ruling the state and its regions."

The FCIS should prevent such attempts with all of its operational and technical potential, Yeltsin said. "In interaction with the Interior Ministry and tax police it is necessary to reveal criminal sources, the financing of political campaigns, ties of state and political figures

with organizers of criminal gangs which seek to have their people in state bodies, and are subsidized from abroad," he pointed out.

The president noted that Russia's nuclear safety is an extremely important problem. "We should prevent proliferation of nuclear and other arms of mass annihilation all over the country and abroad," he noted.

Yeltsin believes that the counter-intelligence bodies should be outside politics. As for its servicemen they cannot combine their work with political activities, i.e. to serve the interests of a party or a public organization.

Says Forces Seek To Weaken Russia

*LD2605161894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1550 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—"There are, unfortunately, still forces in the world which would like to weaken Russia, to make her a weak country with a cheap working force and a low intellectual potential" said Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday, speaking at an all-Russia meeting of the leadership of the Russian Federal Counter-intelligence Service.

With this in mind, the president emphasized that ideological conflicts are being replaced by a struggle for spheres of influence in geopolitics, in which Russia's integration into the world economy is seen as a threat to the national interests of several leading states who see Russia as a competitor in everything.

Therefore, Yeltsin said, "no matter what changes occur in Russia and the world, it will be a very long time before counter-intelligence specialists are threatened by unemployment".

There are those who would like to take Russia's natural resources and acquire her leading technologies in several spheres. The recent exposure of several foreign spies in Russia is evidence of this, the president said. But the work of the federal counter-espionage people should not be judged by the number of spies they catch. The most important thing, Yeltsin said, is preventive work; first of all, "espionage activities in Russia must be prevented".

The president also expressed serious concern over the "dissolution of the state secret system". The reforming of ministries, the destruction of the control over secrets which was formerly exercised by individual government and economic sectors, and the unfounded liquidation of many supervising state bodies have resulted in the disorganisation of the former system of keeping state secrets.

Russia has adopted the law, "On State Secrets", but a new system of defending state secrets has not yet been created on its foundation. Yeltsin expressed his opinion that only the federal counter-intelligence service is capable of reliably protecting state secrets under the

current conditions. Non-state structures especially need that department's help in developing and implementing protection measures, the president said.

Notes FSK Role in Fighting 'Extremism'

*LD2605154794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1404 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May (ITAR-TASS)—In his speech to the conference of leaders of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) from all over Russia, the Russian President Boris Yeltsin paid special attention to the FSK's role in countering illegal attempts to overthrow the constitutional system.

In Russia, the president said, there are certain parties, movements, public figures, and citizens who resort to unlawful methods of struggle but they do not always receive the rebuff they deserve. In this respect, Boris Yeltsin believes, there are still many deficiencies in the work of the FSK itself, since existing laws are quite adequate to neutralize extremism of this kind.

The president regards every organized attempt to overthrow the existing constitutional system as a blow against Russian statehood, as a major failure on the part of federal special services. Here the key task of counter-intelligence is always to obtain "preemptive information". However, Boris Yeltsin made it clear that he was not referring to control over the political behavior of citizens or their views. All he had in mind is the need to expose, forestall, and put a stop to unconstitutional activities by extremist elements. If these guidelines are strictly adhered to, the Russian president believes, this area of the special services' activities will not degenerate into political surveillance.

A large part of the head of state's report was devoted to the activities of military counterintelligence, whose task is to protect the army against anybody who seeks to gain access to military secrets or installations. But the results of military counterintelligence need to be much more productive. Preemptive information is not being obtained about violation of conditions in which weapons and ammunition are supposed to be kept. The president expects military counterintelligence to keep him regularly informed about the country's nuclear security and attempts to procure any weapon of mass destruction, both in Russia and elsewhere. There must not be any instances of "nuclear terrorism" in Russia, he said.

The president also dwelt on the FSK's role in resolving ethnic contradictions within the country. Counterintelligence's entire arsenal of manpower and resources must be harnessed to this, he believes.

Argues 'Efficient' Special Services Needed

LD2605152294 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] President Yeltsin stated that Russia needed reliable and efficient special services. "We must shake off the burden of totalitarianism, but do away with the destructive moods in the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]," he told the FCS's national conference on Thursday.

To quote Yeltsin, Russia must play a worthy role in the world community and efficiently protect its independence, territorial integrity and historical traditions.

He also said that new approaches must be laid to the system of Russian security. "We must have a systematic and exhaustive information about the situation in Russia and around it," he said. Yeltsin expects the Federal Counterintelligence Service to provide clear-cut estimates and ideas on ways of neutralizing and eliminating threats to Russia's security. He also said that the FCS must give forecasts and proposals on possible political decisions. The FCS has a sufficient potential for analysis and operational forecasts, said Yeltsin.

Meets Counterintelligence Service Leaders

LD2605195094 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1838 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] On Thursday after delivering a speech at the All-Russian conference of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCIS) President Boris Yeltsin met separately with members of the FCIS collegium. An open discussion about the present state and plans of the special service took place, the FCIS's tasks were specified.

Head of the Public Relations Center of the FCIS Alexander Mikhailov told Interfax that the FCIS was satisfied with results of the meetings with the president.

Submits Counterintelligence Bill

LD2705110194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1033 GMT 27 May 94

[By CRIME-TASS correspondent Olga Semionova]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told the collegium of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCIS) on Thursday that he had sent to the State Duma for approval the law on the Federal Counterintelligence Service after endorsing it, the FCIS chief, Sergey Stepashin announced at the continuing conference of the service leaders.

The passing of the law will strengthen the legal framework which is now operating on the basis of the regulation signed by the president in January.

While in the FCIS, Yeltsin proposed to restore the investigative department to the service, which had been

taken away from it after the president had signed a decree in December ordering the reorganization of the security agencies of the Russian Federation. It has become clear since that time that the move complicated the activity of the FCIS, as well as of the prosecutor's office and the interior affairs agencies. They had to investigate cases for which they had no adequate experience and lacked appropriate support.

'Old-Timers' Seen Gaining Clout in Intelligence Services

MK2605130494 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26
May 94 p 1

[Vyacheslav Morozov report under the "Special Services" rubric: "Who Is Who in the Federal Counterintelligence Service?"]

[Text] According to reports, today President Yeltsin is scheduled to address a meeting of Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] chiefs.

Boris Yeltsin's particular attention to the special services, especially after the well-known October events, is a conspicuous sign. The top state official's visits to the head offices first of the Foreign Intelligence Service and now of the FCS prove that all the persistent talk about upcoming transformations at the special services that are allegedly designed finally to lay to rest the very memory of the KGB is nothing more than idle speculation.

Another side to the top level contacts with the FIS and the FCS is that the president is undoubtedly placing increasing emphasis on career specialists and minimizing the prospects for the emergence of "aliens," such as Ye. Savostyanov, who is said to be considering resigning, at these offices. Another possibility is that the presidential staff was swift to react to Gennadiy Zyuganov's eloquence at the 9 May meeting outside the Lubyanka buildings, where he called on KGB officers to make their choice. Those on high are also making their choice, which is why it is hardly a coincidence that speculation has mounted about high-ranking "old-timers" gaining clout in the FCS leadership, particularly General Stepashin, FCS first deputy chief, and Colonel General Safronov, who rose from the KGB ranks to the very top. They claim that none other than Safronov is in charge of the entire service's operational management, whereas Stepashin has to put up with rather ceremonial functions. As a matter of fact, the first FCS chief, N. Glushko, is still in service, however inconspicuous his current presence might be. Well, intelligence is too important a business to be entrusted to amateurs.

Official Denies Creation of 'Total Control' Body

LD2605200094 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1545 GMT 26 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The transformation of the Russian presidential administration's control department in a similar body attached to the president does not mean that this structure will turn into a total and all-mighty instrument of control, head of the Board's Department of Foreign Relations Andrey Petrov told Interfax on Thursday.

"We are turning into an information-analytical structure which would cooperate with the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service and the tax inspection," he believes. Petrov noted that the priority task of the board which previously dealt with checking the implementation of laws and decrees, will be the preparation of informational-analytical materials for the Russian leader about the activities of the federal power bodies and power bodies of the subjects of the Federation.

Speaking about the right to demand documents necessary for check-ups from enterprises and organizations, Petrov pointed out that the board has no intention to violate the law on commercial secret. "Our enquiries may concern regular information about the financial and economic activities," he said.

According to Petrov, commercial structures will not be the main target of check-ups. "We are more interested in the federal and regional power structures and high-ranking officials," he said.

Petrov noted that the president's decision to transform the board was not caused by some current political reasons, and by no means is linked with the package of economic decrees signed recently by Boris Yeltsin. IF Note: According to the provision on control board at the president, it performs the following functions: prepares and presents to the president analytical information about activities of federal power bodies, state power bodies of the subjects of the Federation on implementation of the Russian Constitution, decrees and orders of the president, checks activities of the federal executive power bodies, executive bodies of the subjects of the Federation, their leaders and apparatus, as well as institutions and organization, carries out check-ups of activities of the presidential administration's division, considers complaints and appeals of citizens, enterprises, institutions and organization; analyzes activities of special control and supervision bodies of the federal executive power bodies and their subdivisions in regions, etc.

Better Rapport Between Branches of Power Urged

LD2605123794 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1040 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—A working group consisting of representatives of the president, members of the government and Russian lawmakers suggested a single concept of adopting laws aimed at the formation of civic society in Russia.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS presidential aide Georgiy Satarov pointed out that laws on elections, referendums, parties and local government "should be adopted in a single package which would meet comprehensive principles of interaction between society and the state."

For the realization of the proposal members of the working group expressed support to the initiative suggested by the Russian president, the Federation Council and the State Duma to set up a joint commission for coordinating legislative activities of the branches of power.

Social Accord Treaty Signed in Kremlin

LD2605175394 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1339 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Civic Accord Pact in Russia was signed in the Kremlin on Thursday.

As the head of the President's office, Sergey Filatov, said that now the ceremonies for signing the agreement will be held in the country's republics, regions and territories. According to him, in the month that has passed since the process of signing began on April 28, 765 representatives of government bodies, Federation members, parties, associations and organizations signed the document.

Public Chambers To Implement Treaty

MK2605113194 Moscow *KOMMERSANT-DAILY*
in Russian 26 May 94 p 3

[Valeriya Ochinyan report: "Conference of President's Representatives. President's Deputies Will Each Get a Chamber"]

[Text] Presidential representatives in the federation components, who seem to have become wearied with longing for the attention of journalists who are currently more interested in the doings of local governors and speakers, have decided to issue a reminder that they are there. During a conference of the president's representatives in the regions of Siberia and the Urals that ended late in the evening in Kurgan on Tuesday, the "sovereign's men" decided to take into their own hands the implementation of the Treaty on Social Accord in the regions.

As their rivals in the shape of local bodies of power are growing stronger, the struggle of the president's representatives to contain the inferiority complex that they are developing takes on paramount importance. Therefore the idea born in the depths of the president's staff to organize public chambers was taken up with considerable enthusiasm. This involves setting up regional analogues of the Public Chamber under the president of Russia, where the main regional political forces would be uniting under the warm wings of the presidential deputies.

Assessing the creation of such public chambers as a correct step which also makes it possible to implement in the regions the provisions of the Treaty on Social Accord, the presidential representatives from 11 krais and oblasts elaborated their own proposals regarding the functioning of the public chambers. In the first place, they think, the chambers should not be put there by order, one can only recommend that they be created. To have some weight, members of the chambers ought to have the right to speak in regional legislative bodies, and to participate in agreeing on presidential edicts before they have become signed. Nor did the president's representatives forget about the material problems of public chambers, asking Boris Yeltsin to arrange for financing them.

However, the optimistic statements from the conference podium slightly diverged from the skeptical utterances in the lobby. Some of its participants think that any positive effect from creating the chambers is rather doubtful because they would be joined mainly by minority parties with no serious power base. Besides, the very existence of presidential representatives in the regions has not been formalized by law, hence the public chambers to be created under them would have no secure legal status.

38 'Secret' Cities Declassified, Renamed

MK2605134894 Moscow *SEGODNYA* in Russian
26 May 94 p 6

[Leonid Kostrov report in the "Geography" column: "Closed" Cities Will Appear On The Maps"]

[Text] Work is under way in the production association Kartografiya on preparing new maps which for the first time will feature some of the populated areas earlier considered secret, under new names designated by the Russian government. Thus, Krasnoyarsk-26 will become Zheleznogorsk; Krasnoyarsk-45, Zelenogorsk; Shkotovo-17 in Maritime Kray has received the name of Fokino; Svobodnyy-18 in Amur Oblast, where in place of a strategic missile force division a space center is being set up, has been called Uglegorsk. Kapustin Yar-1 has become Znamenskiy; Arzamas-16 has been named Kremlev; Penza-19, Zarechnyy; Perm-76, Zvezdnyy; Sverdlovsk-44, Norouralsk; and Tomsk-7, Seversk.

Overall, 38 hitherto secret cities figure in the government document, On the Official Geographic Names of Populated Areas Located in Closed Administrative-Territorial Formations. The secret installations and associated technology in these cities have of course remained but geographic names have nothing to do with this. It is another question to what extent the new names correspond to toponymy: If anything, there are plenty of "ugle-zhelezno-zeleno-" derivatives in the names of Russian cities already.

As Yakov Topchiyan, Kartografiya's chief editor, told *SEGODNYA*'s correspondent, the formerly secret cities will be shown primarily on maps of scale 1:100,000 and 1:200,000. So far maps of this scale are marked "for

official use only." They will also appear on generally available maps, for instance, maps of federation components in particular, Amur Oblast and Maritime and Khabarovsk Kray. Some of the 38 cities will also be indicated in the soon to be published Atlas of Russia's Automobile Roads.

Map Declassification Gathers Pace

LD2605111894 Moscow *Radio Rossii* Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] The discussion and, especially, the revision of borders has always been a fraught business, so to speak, even if it only takes place on paper. Participants in an international conference on cartography which opened in Moscow today know this well. Over to our correspondent, Andrey Zenkov:

[Zenkov] In various eras, no matter how different the prevailing social system, no matter how complex the internal and external political situation, the Geographical Department, the Maps Department, the Supreme Geodesic Directorate, the Main Directorate for Cartography attached to the Council of Ministers and, now, Russia's Federal Service for Geodesy and Cartography, have always done basically the same job. With assistance from their experts they entered on maps the dividing lines which politicians, assisted by the military, decided on. For 68 years of its 75-year existence the Russian cartographic service has answered to the KGB, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Committee for Construction, the Ministry of Ecology, or the Ministry of Natural Resources. Each of these bodies had its own priorities.

[Begin Zhalkovskiy recording] We have now managed to declassify maps in the 1:1,000,000 series, the 1:500,000 series, and the 1:200,000 series. The Ministry of Defense has also agreed to the declassification of the 1:100,000 series. Maps for the use of the public, including maps of oblasts, maps of rayons, and maps of regions, are being produced on the basis of these maps. We will produce these maps. In fact we have already started. They will be very detailed. You will be able to find your own village—and maybe even your own house on them. [end recording]

As Yevgeniy Zhalkovskiy, first deputy head of the service, told me, few people realize that throughout the entire existence of the USSR, the only countries with whom we had official agreements on the mapping of borders were Finland, Poland, Korea, and Mongolia. Today special commissions are discussing these extremely difficult issues with the Baltic republics and the countries of the Caucasus region.

Investigation Into Oct Uprising Faulty

LD2605153994 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Investigators into last October's parliamentary uprising made serious mistakes, a commission of the

Prosecutor General's Office concluded. This is precisely why Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kravtsev was dismissed.

Although the formula of indictment on former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, ex-Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and former Deputy Soviet Defence Minister Vladislav Ahalov was ready in January, this was delayed because of incomplete work on plaintiffs and damage sustained. Other mistakes include lack of coordination and duplication of work by separate investigating teams. The files were kept apart and none of the teams had enough information to substantiate the case.

The commission also indicated that a substantial part of external investigating officers had little experience with 28 percent of prosecuting officers and 33 percent of police investigators having work records of less than three years. As many as 7,000 witnesses had been questioned and the identity established of 151 dead victims and 913 wounded casualties by February 22 when the State Duma declared an amnesty.

Apart from subjective reasons, the investigation was also hampered because of delays caused by a number of government bodies. Despite the PGO's [Prosecutor General's Office] repeated requests, no estimates were provided of the damage done to the buildings of the Russian parliament and Moscow mayor's office.

Democratic Russia Preparing To Form Party

*MK2605114894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
26 May 94 p 2*

[Viktor Khamrayev report under the "Reincarnation" rubric: "Democratic Russia's Federal Party To Have Unblemished Members. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn To Choose New President"]

[Text] The threat of fascism owing to the stepped-up activity of nationalist forces, the possibility of totalitarianism because of the communists' revanchist schemes, and the formalization of "neo-Brezhnev rule" by the monopolism of the corrupt oligarchy were the trends named at a news conference by leaders of the Democratic Russia movement, on the basis of which a federal party of the same name will be set up.

Galina Starovoytova, Lev Ponomarev, Anatoliy Korotich, and other members of the organizing committee, explaining the need for setting up a new political organization, told journalists that the Democratic Russia Federal Party [DRFP] is designed to defend the foundation of democracy—civil society aiming at a socially oriented market economy. According to Ms. Starovoytova, the party will absorb the middle class: medium-size and small businessmen, the intelligentsia, qualified workers, and farmers—people whose financial involvement in the party organization the committee lacks so badly at this stage. As it is embarking on a non-confrontational path, the party will do its utmost to overcome the breakup that is currently characteristic of

the democratic movement by cooperating with all who will resist the threat of fascism and totalitarianism.

Unlike U.S. parties that are activated only during election campaigns, the new Russian party is called upon to be active all the time; its ranks are open for anyone wishing to join it after a procedure of "soft ceremonial purification" that, organizing committee member Andrey Frolov said, will bar the "old nomenklatura" and "former KGB agents" from entering the political organization that is being set up by people "who have never been CPSU members."

The founders think that their party's federal status will be bolstered by Democratic Russia local branches: chiefs of 30 regional branches left the meeting that ended 22 May with the organizing committee's membership cards. The chiefs of the remaining 15 branches, while voicing no objections in principle, decided that "the matter should be discussed at home" first. "Moscow's diktat" in the new party will be ruled out because the capital organization will get one vote just as any regional branch.

On the economic side, which was described as "a prolonged shock," the fledgling party members predicted a social upheaval at the end of summer or the beginning of fall; to avert it they suggested that the government resume "economic reform that has been effectively halted." If political reform is to be resumed also, the DRFP organizing committee thinks that all democratic forces should unite into a bloc, something which, according to Lev Ponomarev's forecast, should take place "sometime near the fall." The bloc, according to Democratic Russia's plan, should nominate a single candidate for president in the upcoming elections. The speakers in the news conference would not speculate who precisely it may be, but they pinned some hopes on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who "with his keen feeling...would help choose a future leader" by formulating "a patriotic Russian idea in non-chauvinist words and expressions."

Zyuganov Calls For Restoration of USSR by 1995

*MK2605104694 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
26 May 94 p 2*

[Gleb Cherkasov report under the "Hypotheses" rubric: "Gennadiy Zyuganov Is Choosing A Future For Russia. Rutskoy And Zhirinovskiy May Disagree With Him"]

[Text] Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF], while meeting with the public in Samara, divulged his views on what he sees as the most likely scenarios of sociopolitical developments in Russia. According to Comrade Zyuganov, at this stage there are three.

According to the first scenario, the "merger" between the authorities and the criminal structures will continue. Gennadiy Zyuganov pointed out that this development

of events is eliciting extreme concern among both Russian and foreign politicians. The second option, which envisions "a social explosion accompanied by mass protests of badly-off groups driven to despair," does not suit the CPRF leader, either, because, in his view, the current "top authorities" will definitely try to shift all the blame on to mid-level local leaders, thanks to whom, Comrade Zyuganov believes, Russia still "holds."

The CPRF leader sees the best possible scenario as the coming to power of patriotic forces. Gennadiy Zyuganov pointed out that the opposition forces would like to start work on the restoration of the USSR (apparently, not in the capacity of non-government organizations) as early as by the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. Comrade Zyuganov said that the congress of the "Accord for Russia" movement on 28 May will make a number of decisions that will help form a formidable and well-structured opposition.

At the same time, the movement's relations with two other large opposition associations—the "State" ["Derzhava"] movement being set up by Aleksandr Rutskey and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]—are still uncertain. Presently they disagree at least on one thing. So, according to Gennadiy Zyuganov, "the presidency, as it stands now, is detrimental to the country." However, any attempts to weaken the presidency will evidently draw a disappointing reaction from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

As for Aleksandr Rutskey's stance, the Russian Social Democratic People's Party leader said recently that he "somewhat mistrusts the CPRF" because of its stance both in August 1991 and in October 1993. Moreover, Mr. Rutskey is also unlikely to be very enthusiastic about the abolition of the presidency or any considerable restriction of his powers.

Zhirinovskiy Rated Third Among Presidential Aspirants

MK2605101694 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian, 26 May 94, p 1

[Aleksey Zuychenko report under the "Poll" rubric: "'Firm Order' and 'Strong Authority' Will Win in Next Presidential Elections. They Would Have Once Again Elected Yeltsin This Week"]

[Text] Two years before presidential elections in Russia, Liberal Democrat leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy continues in third position on the list of probable contenders for this position, conceding first and second positions to Boris Yeltsin and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy respectively. At least, this is what transpires from the results of a poll commissioned by SEGODNYA and conducted by the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion poll 14-18 May among 1,620 respondents representing the Russian Federation's urban population.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy's escapades, to all appearances, continue to hold appeal for his former voters, while the

squabbles inside the party and the virtual split in the Duma faction of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia are having no effect on the attitude to its leader. Supporters of the Liberal Democrats' fuhrer still regard him as the only man who can act on their demand for "strong authority" and "a real leader." It is these notions that rate first on the scale of "civic values" of Mr. Zhirinovskiy's voters.

However, judging from the poll, neither the "pro-market" nor "pro-democracy" supporters of Russia's current president are free from the predilection for a "firm hand."

Aleksandr Rutskey, who was noted some time ago as the main rival to Mr. Zhirinovskiy in the contest for the lumpen-like electorate, has so far been unable to regain the second position he held in the rating list before the coup. Now one can be totally sure that the general's golden moment has been left behind.

As for Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, his probable electorate (among the four leaders) in future elections looks more eroded than the others. This is most likely because voters have a vague idea of the real difference between Mr. Yavlinskiy's policy and that of his rivals on the possible election list.

Liberal Union Deputy Assaults Zhirinovskiy Aide

MK2605104094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 May 94 p 1

[INTERFAX-NG report: "Gentlemen's Quarrel"]

[Text] State Duma Deputy Andrey Makarov (from the "12 December" Liberal Democratic Union faction) assaulted Captain Second Rank Mikhail Ivanov, adviser to Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] chief Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, on Wednesday. The victim said that he was trying to hand over the seventh and eighth chapters of the global concept of public security in Russia he had drawn up to Yuli Gusman, his colleague in the deputy corps. In response to Gusman's flat refusal to familiarize himself with the paper, Captain Ivanov himself acknowledged, he said imprudently: "If you don't read it you will end up like Makarov." Hearing his name is so dubious a context, Andrey Makarov hit the LDPR adviser with a case, smashed his lip, tore off a pocket from his uniform, and tried to tear his shoulder boards.

Daily Blasted for Refusing To Publish Protest Letter

LD2605154694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Liberal-Democratic Party [LDP] accused the editor-in-chief of the newspaper Izvestiya of refusing to publish its letter of protest against Yegor Gaydar's article entitled "A Stalk on Rascals." The article said that "all the classical attributes

of a fascist party, ideology and personality perfectly apply to Zhirinovskiy and his party."

The Liberal Democratic Party's appeal to *Izvestiya*, handed to Interfax, says that instead of initiating a direct dialogue between political opponents, *Izvestiya* was playing into the hands of politicians of the same bias, publishing articles discrediting the Liberal Democratic Party one after another.

The letter says that the Liberal Democratic Party leaders, "considered their duty to inform its electors of their attitude to Gaydar's dirty article through any other Russian newspaper which will not be afraid to give space to the party which won the election on December 12, 1993."

Media Issues

State Duma Creates Own TV, Radio Service

LD2705095894 Moscow *ITAR-TASS* in English
0758 GMT 27 May 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—The Russian State Duma Snubbed President Boris Yeltsin on Friday by deciding to create its own TV and radio service.

On Thursday Presidential Spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov urged the lower chamber on behalf of the Russian President to refrain from such a decision, but the request was ignored.

The TV and radio service will employ 49 people and is to daily report on activities of legislative authorities. Representatives of various factions will have 30 minutes of daily air time.

The Duma thus followed suit of the former Russian legislature, the Supreme Soviet, which was dissolved by the President last September. It had also created its own TV service which appeared on central TV with the "parliamentary hour" programme. The broadcasts were intended to provide objective coverage of the work of the legislature which said that state-controlled media was biased about it.

Yeltsin Criticizes Broadcasting Bid

LD2605204294 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1758 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Russian presidential press-secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov criticized on behalf of Boris Yeltsin the steps taken by the State Duma for the creation of its own TV and Radio service with a compulsory system of daily broadcasting on state television channels.

In a statement released on Thursday the press secretary noted that "the president is concerned that the resumption of information dictate may lead to the fall of the

State Duma's prestige, and this in turn would damage the process of strengthening civil accord."

The practice of infringement by the former Supreme Council on the prerogatives of a free media being reanimated in the new parliament has already been resolutely rejected by Russian public opinion, the statement says.

Kostikov pointed out that neither the president, nor the government, nor the Federation Council have their own broadcasting service. The State Duma's attempts to in essence create information privileges for itself can be described as an aspiration of one of the power branches to violate the division of powers already fixed in the Constitution, the statement points out. "The pernicious consequences of such tactics are well known."

"The president urges deputies of the State Duma to show wisdom, political tact, and to take into account lessons of history," Kostikov noted.

Condemns Move Toward 'Information Diktat'

LD2605225894 Moscow *Radio Rossii* Network in Russian
1700 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The president's press service today issued a statement from Boris Yeltsin on the State Duma's decision to set up its own radio and television service. We asked Vyacheslav Kostikov, the president's press secretary, for the details. Here's what he told us by telephone.

[Begin Kostikov recording] Unfortunately, the point has to be made that the State Duma is taking steps to set up its own radio and television service, and, what is particularly annoying, with a compulsory system of daily broadcasting on the state television channels and primarily on the channels of Russia TV. So the new legislative body is, in effect, reviving the practice of the earlier Supreme Soviet's encroachments on the free airwaves.

Boris Nikolayevich had a serious conversation on the subject today. He is very concerned at these new tendencies in the work of the Duma. He thinks that the renewal of attempts at an information diktat may lead to a fall in the prestige of the State Duma. This worries him because the State Duma is one of the participants in the process of public accord, and the discrediting of that important state body will damage the strengthening of public accord in Russia.

Moreover, it must be borne in mind that neither the president nor the government nor the Federation Council has its own broadcasting. They interact with the public on the principles, universally adopted in world practice, of the free flow of information. The tactic of compulsorily reserving and grabbing its own radio and television time must be seen as an attempt by a state body to create information privileges for itself. That is, of course, impermissible. In the information field, all participants in a discussion—sometimes there are several of them in a political struggle—must nevertheless, in a democratic state, have equal opportunities, and the

constitution must provide such opportunities. But that seems too little for the State Duma—not the whole of the State Duma, of course, but some of it, some groups which think that they must have some special rights to the information space.

Politically, this can only be seen as the desire of one branch of power to violate the division of powers which has taken shape and is enshrined in the constitution. We have already experienced such a practice and know the ruinous consequences. They are well known. This tactic by the Supreme Soviet led, in part, to the October events. And it is extremely dangerous to public calm to return once more to those plans for forcibly foisting one's own viewpoints on to the public.

In this connection, by making his statement, the president is urging the deputies of the State Duma to display wisdom that is characteristic of many groups and many deputies, and political tact, and, above all, to take account of the lessons of very recent history.

The statement must certainly not be seen as some kind of confrontation. It is a calm warning from the president to deputies, so that they should not make mistakes that will rebound on them, above all. I think that deputies must be concerned about their own image if they want the State Duma to be a popular body among the people.

Broadcast Media Form Association To Lobby Duma

*MK2605112594 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY
KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 26 May 94 p 2*

[Unattributed report under the "Around the Clock Non-Stop" column: "Duma Now Has Lobby"]

[Text] Yesterday a meeting of heads of the capital and regional television and radio companies voted unanimously for the creation of an Association of Television and Radio Workers. The founder is the Journalists Union of Russia.

The reason for the gathering at Journalist House was the drafting of a law on television and radio that parliament has been poring over with enviable persistence for several days now. After all, the future of a favorite plaything is being decided. And those working for television and radio do not want to be a plaything.

The main objective is to lobby Duma decrees: The future law should only be passed if the association consents. It also intends to work out principles for the development of the television and radio market, and to oppose the Communications Ministry's monopoly. The association will keep an eye on the registration and re-registration of television and radio companies.

The association will bring together representatives of rather varied interests: state-employed broadcasters and commercial and independent producers. However, when it came to nominating the association's chairman, the

only candidate named was Lysenko who represents state interests. The heads of regional television and radio companies nominated their own candidates—Kurkova and Shevelev. There was no time left to vote on any of the candidates. Therefore they allowed Lysenko, who heads the organizing committee, to be chairman ad interim. Having done that, the gathering decided to break up until fall. Half the participants were in a hurry to join a banquet in the adjoining room.

Many Areas Left Without Radio as Power Switched Off

LD2605134594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 26 May broadcasts a 4.5-minute report that radio and television companies across Russia are going to set up a league as a measure against the law on mass media which is about to be adopted by the State Duma. The announcer says that the proposed law stipulates the creation of the state Duma's exclusive TV and radio service, which, the announcer says, will be financed from the federal budget, thus reducing the amount of financial support presently allocated to other state media.

Anatoliy Batyushkin, head of the department of radio and television at the Ministry of Communications, is asked by a Radio Rossii correspondent about the present financial situation in the broadcasting industry. He says:

"At present we owe the power engineers about 50 billion rubles [R] for the electrical energy already supplied to TV centers. The TV and radio broadcasting companies' debt for the first quarter stands at R192 billion. Until now only R100 billion have been repaid. Only R25 billion has been used to pay salaries, buy spare parts, etc, while in fact, the power engineers need at least R50 billion for the first quarter year."

Asked whether broadcasting will go back to normal in the near future, Batyushkin says:

"I think that we will be able to work well if the federal television and radio broadcasting service does in fact achieve stable financing. If we are paid, no conflict situation, nothing will interfere with nonstop broadcasting, just as it used to be when we had a system when a single minute of unused time at some or other transmitter was considered to be an emergency situation."

In response to that comment, Radio Rossii correspondent Aleksandr Kurekov says:

"First of all, a few words from a note on technical stoppages of transmitters broadcasting Radio Rossii programs. From 24 May, because of lack of energy supplies, transmitters in Taldym, near Moscow, Blagoveshchensk in Amur oblast, and in Chita are inoperative. These transmitters used to provide one of the most stable feeds of radio programs on longwave." Kurekov adds that people in these areas can no longer

hear the 650 or so reports from localities provided by Radio Rossii's correspondents, or the 200-300 reports filed by them from near-abroad and other countries. He also said that Kaluga, Smolensk, Tver, and Voronezh oblasts have been left without Radio Rossii's programs as well.

Economic Issues

Filatov Previews Forthcoming Economic Edicts

LD2605193894 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1547 GMT 26 May 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—Following this week's package of decrees aiming to speed economic reforms, Russian President Boris Yeltsin is now preparing another series of decrees to regulate the sphere of production, according to Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential staff.

Addressing participants in a regular ceremony of signing the treaty of social accord in the Grand Kremlin Palace, Filatov said the package of decrees now under preparation is above all aims to improve efficiency of tax offices. "The poor performance of tax services results in such losses that their reducing by 20-30 per cent would enable to cover the entire federal budget deficit", he noted.

The chief of the presidential staff listed priorities to be addressed by the said decrees. They include cutbacks in state subsidies and preferential support of enterprises, protection of private ownership, encouragement of private and foreign investments.

The president also intends to issue an order on division between the economic and social activities of enterprises with a view to put an end to what head of the group of experts under the Russian president, Aleksandr Lifshits, described as "factory socialism".

Some measures are also expected to be taken for equitable distribution of reform burden among all sections of the population.

Filatov stressed that time had come to pass from words about reform to the reform itself, which the old parliament failed to do, despite repeated and urgent appeals by President Yeltsin.

Government Discusses Future of Economic Reforms

PM2705091194 Moscow *IZVESTIYA in Russian*
27 May 94 p 2

[Irina Savvateyeva report: "Government Concerned About Course of Reforms"]

[Text] The latest sitting of the government presidium was largely devoted to the future of economic reforms in Russia.

It examined a draft of the federal investment program for 1994 was being examined, and introduced clarifications and additions in the government's plan of action in connection with the implementation of the first phase of the "Development of Reforms and Stabilization of the Russian Economy" program. Apart from that, it examined the draft Russian Federation Law "On the Emergency Rescue Service and the Status of Rescuers."

The "Development of Reforms and Stabilization of the Russian Economy" program was adopted in November of last year, and covered the period from late 1993 through 1994. Today it has been partially implemented, and it has become partially obsolete. That is why the Ministry of the Economy, represented by First Deputy Minister Yakov Urinson, proposed that certain clarifications and additions be introduced.

First of all, it is proposed to change the procedure for the adoption of decisions. Whereas last year's version proposed proceeding on the basis of presidential edicts, which were to be subsequently ratified by laws, now the elaborators of the program will be aiming for the adoption of full legislative acts straight away.

As for the content side, the following additions were made. The section on the reform of state enterprises, elaborated on the basis of recent presidential edicts, is being included in its entirety in the program. Measures to carry out structural policy are being outlined. A list of hopeless production capacities liable to closure is being drawn up.

The investment section will tackle in particular the procedure for the implementation of federal targeted programs, as well as a reduction in their number. Apart from that, a methodology for selecting projects for financing is being proposed.

A federal program for exports and a government decree on the basic guidelines of energy policy will also be ratified within the framework of the program for the development of reforms.

Deputies' Failure To Explain Reform Criticized

LD2605111994 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1033 GMT 26 May 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets opened a regular session of the Russian Government today, criticising Russian ministers for inadequate activities in bringing home to the people the importance of Russian president's decrees on boosting economic reform. Soskovets described the government's activities in this field as "obviously insufficient."

A package of documents on the reform of state-run enterprises, strengthening taxation policies, streamlining

payments and abolishing export quotas and licenses was prepared by the Russian Government and signed by the president on May 23.

"Despite an avalanche of comments on the latest presidential decrees, the Russian ministers's voice is almost inaudible," Soskovets said. "It is the cabinet which should be the first to analyse laws which the ministers will have to comply with, bring them home to the people and make their forecasts," Soskovets said.

On his initiative the government adopted a resolution to establish control over the implementation of the president's decrees on stepping up the economic reform. Under the resolution, heads of federal and regional executive bodies were instructed to hold conferences and seminars to discuss recent presidential decrees, inviting managers of enterprises to attend.

Majority Polled Report Drop in Living Standards

LD2605142794 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1201 GMT 26 May 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The results of a public opinion poll conducted by the "Mnenie" sociological service showed that every second respondent considers the financial status of his family to be not very good. A total of 17 per cent of respondents said they can hardly make both ends meet, while only three per cent are quite satisfied with their incomes and 27 per cent admitted that their incomes are relatively not bad.

The majority of these polled (65 per cent) said that five years ago they lived much better. A total of 22 per cent said that their incomes had grown, while 11 per cent believe that their incomes remained at about the same level.

Almost half of respondents (47 per cent) resolutely declined to make any forecasts about their future incomes. The number of optimists hoping that in five years their life will change for the better makes up about 27 per cent, with 6 per cent cherishing hopes of getting rich. However, 13 per cent cherish no such hopes and are preparing to tighten their belts.

Taking part in the poll were 3,535 respondents from 190 Russian settlements located in 30 regions of the Russian Federation.

Government Rejects Draft Investment Program

LD2605125494 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1106 GMT 26 May 94

[By *ITAR-TASS* correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—During its meeting on Thursday, the Russian Federal Government rejected the draft of the federal investment programme for 1994 which had been submitted by the Finance Ministry. The

rejection was largely inspired by the draft's lack of a mechanism for creating an investment market in the country. The Finance Ministry has been given a week to resubmit an improved draft programme.

Investment in Russia continued to decline in 1993, due to the overall fall in production, high inflation rates, and the high risk level for private investors. Despite the government's efforts to stimulate investment by cancelling the tax on profits which are reinvested, offering subsidized credits, and reassessing basic assets, the rate of decline was only slowed somewhat. In 1993, the value of investments declined by 16 per cent, compared to 40 per cent in 1992, according to the report presented to the government today by First Deputy Finance Minister Yakov Urinson.

Urinson pointed out two priorities for the government investment policy. The first is the more effective use of investments provided by the state budget, with a transition away from credits "on demand" towards those given out only to the most promising enterprises after examining their business plans.

The second priority stresses the formation of a more attractive investment climate drawing on funds from enterprises themselves and private investors.

The Finance Ministry feels that the implementation of those measures will improve the investment climate already in 1994, and have its greatest effect in 1995. However, Urinson pointed out, overall investments from all sources into the country's economy have declined by 10 per cent in 1994. Government centralized investments have gone down by 40 per cent. The remaining funds will be directed towards easing the most serious problems.

The draft presented by the Finance Ministry included the suggestions of many ministries and departments. In particular, the state construction committee suggested that a point be added to the draft about opening special accounts for amortization deductions and advancing up to 30 per cent of the yearly limit to companies working on contract. The Russian Agricultural Ministry protested that the draft did not envisage the financing of branches of the agro-industrial complex from the federal budget, whose funds are handed out only for the support of the most important sectors of the economy.

Central Bank Chief Said To Oppose Economic Edicts

LD2605141194 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1046 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] At its Thursday's session the Russian Government decided to organize control over the implementation of the package of economic decrees signed by President Yeltsin recently.

Addressing the session, First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets stressed that real life in Russia "overtakes the

processes of law-making," and that the "package of presidential economic decrees" is designed to "resolve problems that piled up largely in the area of finances and material production skillfully and gradually."

According to Soskovets, the "essence and the content" of Boris Yeltsin's decrees connected with reforming state-owned enterprises, taxation policy, quotas and other issues "pursue only one goal—to put the country's economy in order."

"Many provisions in the package of the president's decrees conflict with the present legislation, and some of them give rise to amazement," countered the chairman of Russia's Central Bank, Viktor Gerashchenko. He called for convening a special government session to analyse and discuss the decrees.

However Gerashchenko's call failed to find support, and participants in the government session approved the draft resolution which contains a system of concrete measures designed to monitor the implementation of presidential decrees.

Gerashchenko Denies Opposing Edicts

*LD2605151394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1424 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] Moscow May 26 BUSINESS-TASS—Chairman of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko refuted mass media reports that he opposed the package of economic decrees recently issued by President Boris Yeltsin.

Gerashchenko told BUSINESS-TASS that those documents had actually been prepared by specialists from the Central Bank, along with other departments. They were then only polished up by the president's staff.

"The aim of the published decrees is to raise contract discipline and achieve the honoring of responsibilities before each other and before the state", the chairman noted, adding that the decrees would be fully implemented by the Central Bank.

The only thing that might have given rise to the rumours of his opposition, said Gerashchenko, was his comment, made at a recent meeting of the government, that the system of final editing of decrees and documents could be improved. He said the government should avoid changing documents which have already been fully prepared, since that might lead to some misunderstandings.

Bank Plans Hidden Currency Interventions by Proxy

*MK2705093194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
27 May 94 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Russian Federation Central Bank Changes Tactics of Currency Market Regulation"]

[Text] The Russian Central Bank plans to change its tactics of regulating the ruble's exchange rate against the dollar by carrying out hidden interventions through networks of authorized banks. At the same time, the Central Bank is going to reduce its presence at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, Igor Knyazev, deputy chief of the bank's currency operations administration, said. This scheme is expected to be more efficient because authorized banks will benefit from putting their into circulation, which, in turn, will create a "cash flow."

Military & Nuclear Issues

Arms Producers Draft New Trade Law

*MK2605133594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY
in Russian 26 May 94 p 10*

[Lev Ambinder report: "News Conference of Russia's Armorers Union. Arms Producers Start Making Laws"]

[Excerpts] Russian small-arms exporters, seriously concerned at the threats of a number of European states to take measures in connection with the imminent 100-percent hike in July in customs duties on arms imports to Russia, are looking for a compromise. Oleg Kuzmenko, executive director of the Union of Russian Armorers, advised at the news conference that took place in Izhevsk yesterday that draft decrees are being prepared jointly with the State Committee on the Defense Industry and the government of Udmurtia, suggesting that these duties be brought into line with those of the rest of the world, and at the same time the price of licenses for trade in weapons be increased. [passage omitted]

Since the former legal norms regulating the purchasing, keeping, trade in and manufacture of sporting and hunting arms have been abolished, and new ones have not been put in place yet, the next draft law proposed by the armorers relates precisely to these matters. In particular, it sets the price of a license for trade in weapons at 400 minimal salaries, that of a buyer's license at 0.5 percent of the minimum salary, that of a license for keeping a weapon at 0.04 percent, and that of the license for the production of weapons at 0.1 percent of the minimum salary.

That puts some constraints on traders in imported weapons on the home market. Mr. Kuzmenko is confident that following the conference in Izhevsk chaired by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, who supported the armorers' proposals, they could be adopted by the Russian Government as early as this month.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY observers point out that the position of Russian armorers has been significantly determined by their success in March at the international fire-arms show at Nuremberg where some of the

articles fetched preliminary orders for twice the quantities than the producers could supply. In this connection the alluring prospect of stepping up their arms export made the armorers speak against the introduction of high customs duties.

Duma Deputy Against Experimenting With Army

LD2605163194 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1239 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—"The Army must not be subjected to any experiments. We must not save or make money on the defenders of our homeland," Air Major-General Nikolay Bezborodov, vice-chairman of the Duma Defence Committee, told ITAR-TASS today. He noted that trips of MPs to garrisons of the Far Eastern Military Area and to the Northern Fleet have confirmed that minimum funds, sufficient only for every-day needs, are being allocated to the military establishment. This calls in question the proper organisation of military training and the protection of Russia's interests and security.

The materials of the investigation, Bezborodov said, have been submitted to the Defence Council of the State Duma, to the government, and to the president of the Russian Federation. The committee is sure that it is necessary to radically revise the financing of the Armed Forces. The situation when servicemen and the civilian personnel are not paid their salaries for 2-3 months running can by no means be regarded as normal. This creates a tense situation in some garrisons, where the families of servicemen live only on Army cash allowances.

Bezborodov said that the president's stand on the military budget was clear. He wants minimum funds to be allocated, which would keep the combat readiness of the Armed Forces at the needed level, would ensure the survival of the military science and purchases of the needed armaments. The president is sure that this is the duty of the state.

"The privileges accorded to servicemen should neither be expanded nor curtailed," the vice-chairman of the Duma Defence Committee stressed. Reports have appeared that the Russian Government was allegedly proposing to pay minimum compensation for the present food rations. Defence Ministry experts have made corresponding calculations, which showed that in this case all the servicemen would prefer to get food rations instead of money. This will be much more expensive to the state. "The committee will approach these problems most seriously," the general stated.

Moscow Favors Treaty Banning Nuclear Tests

LD2605150694 Moscow *INTERFAX in English*
1339 GMT 26 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia is in favor of reaching agreed-upon decisions on the major provisions of a treaty on banning nuclear tests as soon as possible (by next spring), the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's press and information department, Grigoriy Karasin, said in connection with the talks resumed by the Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

Russia's Foreign Ministry views these talks as a major direction of its efforts in the current year, he stressed at Thursday's briefing. He pointed to Moscow's intention to "contribute to the endeavors to create favorable conditions for next year's conference on extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

As Karasin said, Moscow believes that a "treaty on banning nuclear tests should be timeless and have no ceilings; that it should provide for an effective system of control and for strict sanctions against its violators."

According to the diplomat, "Russia favors a realistic and evolutionary approach to developing the system of international control over the implementation of a treaty on banning nuclear tests, which would provide for using at its initial stage seismic methods, instruments for surveying radioactivity in the atmosphere, and on-site inspections." "Some countries have suggested a number of additional methods, but this may considerably increase expenses connected with control system and lead to delaying the drafting of the treaty," Karasin said.

Federal Assembly

Deputies Attack Presidential Economic Edicts

LD2605100994 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
0755 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The State Duma (lower house of the Russian parliament) mounted the first attack on the six recent economic decrees by President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday.

Calling them "unconstitutional", Deputy Valentin Martemyanov (Russian Communist Party) proposed that the president's documents should be debated at the chamber's plenary meeting.

However, his proposal failed, collecting only 167 votes in support.

Therefore, the item worded by the legislator as "unconstitutional decrees by the president and measures to stop

them" was not put on the agenda of the meeting. However, analysts believe that the attack on Yeltsin's economic decrees is not the last one.

Deputies Air Views on Edicts

*LD2605175994 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] President Yeltsin's package of six economic decrees is neither a revolution nor a landmark the policy of reforms, let alone the second stage of reforms, Russian deputy Pavel Bunich of the Russia's Choice faction, himself a leading economist, told Interfax. At the same time, he said they indicated a number of small steps forward and were positive as such. But Bunich thinks their effects could be felt only in the next year's budget. By then, he stressed, appropriate laws will have been adopted to enshrine the measures indicated in the package.

Bunich thinks that the package was intended only to declare some changes in the course of economic reforms.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Aleksandr Vengerovskiy of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] told Interfax that LDP economists would outline their own vision of economic reforms and their attitude to the president's package at a news conference in Moscow on Friday.

As for himself, Vengerovskiy thinks that the package-envisaged measures are "largely forced ones, though positive on the whole".

One other LDP deputy Vladimir Lisichkin, himself an economist, has praised the package though not the measures it set out "are belated and should have been taken a year ago".

He said LDP was opposed only to one of the six decrees, notably the one lifting export quotas and licences. He said the measure aimed at liberalizing foreign trade and called for by Yegor Gaydar last year but rejected by the Liberal Democrats was nothing but a follow up of the shock treatment of the economy.

In the absence of a legislative basis, the measure will cause further flight of capital to other countries to back up their economies rather than Russia's, Lisichkin believes.

For his part, Vladimir Semago of the Communist Party said that many of the package's points that the opposition raised during 1991-1993 were reflected in his party's economic recovery plan.

The president is clearly moving into our camp and the only thing that prevents us from accepting him, he said, is the absence of his announcement about early elections and his own resignation.

At the same time, Semago is opposed to serious economic decisions being taken by splashing out a series of decrees. He said such decisions must be legislated after passing through Duma committees.

He accused Yeltsin of pretending to have forgotten whatever negative was done. He now pretends to have a new inspiration, new aides and to be moving forward which nothing but a cunning game, Semago believes.

Duma Votes Against No Confidence in Government

*LD2605122294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1123 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The State Duma today voted against Sergey Baburin's move to express no confidence in the government. The move was put to the vote and turned down by the overwhelming majority of the deputies.

The attempt to topple the Chernomyrdin cabinet had been made hot on the heels of the debate in the lower chamber about the inadequate deliveries of food and petroleum products to Russia's northern regions this year. Baburin proceeded from the critical remarks made by the speakers who said the government was unjustifiably slow in organising the deliveries.

Duma Concerned Over Food, Fuel Situation in North

*LD2605174794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1400 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The threat of leaving the population of the northern regions of Russia without fuel and food next winter has prompted the State Duma to adopt today a resolution "on the emergency situation linked with the transportation of oil products and food to the country's far northern regions in 1994".

Duma member Vladimir Goman informed the MPs during the deliberations on the draft of the foregoing resolution that only 85 per cent of the needed food products, 62 per cent of the needed oil products, and 55 per cent of the needed consumer goods were delivered to the northern regions of the country by May 1, as compared to the volume of 1993. Only 9 per cent of the manufactured and technical goods, envisaged by the concluded agreements, were so far delivered to those regions.

The State Duma resolution instructs several of its committees to look into the problem of financing the delivery of food products to the far north and to territories enjoying the same status before June 6, 1994, with due account of the Russian Government's view, and to submit to the Duma corresponding proposals for the timely and full delivery of the required goods.

The Duma noted that the Russian Government was not fulfilling its own resolution "on changes in the mechanism of state financial support to the delivery of products (goods) to regions of the far north and to territories enjoying the same status".

The State Duma recommended the Council of the Federation to jointly approach the president in connection with the catastrophic situation with the delivery of vitally needed cargoes to the northern population.

Duma Fails To Approve Constitutional Court Candidates

LD2605162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] None of the five candidates to sit on the Constitutional Court, nominated by Duma factions, collected the required majority of votes (225) in a vote in the parliament's lower house on Wednesday.

Lawyer Oleg Mironov from the Russian Communist Party's faction fared best of all with over 41 percent of the votes.

As the Duma Legislative Committee's Chairman Vladimir Isakov has reported, factions are entitled to put forward their own candidates to the president.

When a Constitutional Court bill was debated, the lower house insisted on its right to put forward its candidates to that judicial body and amended the law's wording appropriately.

In keeping with Russia's Constitution, the president is to make the final selection of candidates to sit on the Constitutional Court and the Federation Council is to appoint them.

The Constitutional Court is made up of 19 judges, 6 posts in it are currently vacant.

Duma Approves First Part of Civil Code

LD2605153294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1143 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The lower chamber of the Russian federal legislature, the State Duma, approved today what Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov described as "a document of prime importance," the first part of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation designed to regulate the most important public relations during the country's transition to a market economy.

The vote was practically unanimous, a rare case in the Duma, even though it was preceded by a heated debate. Many speakers still remember too well the Soviet Civil Code adopted 30 years ago. Common sense prevailed

eventually and the chamber approved the document after the Agrarian Faction insisted on a significant amendment.

In preparing the document for second reading, the drafters were instructed to proceed from the assumption that the alienation and use of land and other natural resources is regulated by civil legislation in as much as land and other natural resources can be an object of civil turnover under land, agrarian and other legislation concerning natural resources.

Duma To Investigate OMON Activities

LD2705095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0818 GMT 27 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—The activity of the Russian police force's special Omon [special-purpose militia detachments] units will be examined by the State Duma, it was decided today. The chamber set up a special commission to prepare the discussion.

The move came from a woman deputy from the city of Tver, who complained that Omon policemen were "committing outrage" in her city, although she adduced no specific facts to confirm the statement.

The woman said that Omon units "ran riot" in the city last October and that she saw no point in "appealing to Minister Viktor Yerin" in this context.

Budget Committee Spurns Proposal for Higher Spending

MK2705092794 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
27 May 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "State Duma Committee Rejects Proposal for Increasing Budget Expenditure"]

[Text] The State Duma Committee on the Budget, Finances, and Banks has not supported the Economic Policy Committee's proposal for increasing expenditure in the draft 1994 federal budget by 28.6 trillion rubles, Budget Committee chairman Mikhail Zadornov said. In his words, today, when the budget bill will be considered by the State Duma in the second reading, an overwhelming majority of the budget committee members are going to stick to the key stances on the budget deficit, revenue, and expenditure that were outlined when the bill was discussed in the first reading.

Duma Postpones Budget Debates to 8 Jun

LD2705100494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0800 GMT 27 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow May 27 TASS—The State Duma Refused to follow the agenda for Friday and consider the draft federal budget for 1994.

According to Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the Duma Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks and Finances, his committee received the bulk of 300 amendments to the budget on Thursday afternoon and had no time to prepare for the Friday session.

The Duma will resume its discussion of the draft budget on June 8.

Regional Affairs

Situation in N. Ossetian Emergency Zone 'Sharpens'

LD2605174494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1353 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 26 TASS—The situation in the zone under state of emergency on the territory of North Ossetia has sharpened again, according to military sources.

This is connected with the fact that on May 25 at about 9 p.m. unidentified persons shot at a Zhiguliy car with two people inside near the village of Yuznyy situated in the security zone. Both people died of mortal gunshot wounds. The incident is being investigated.

The situation in the zone under state of emergency is aggravated by acts of terrorism, bandit attacks and incessant taking of hostages, a spokesman for the press service of the president and the government of North Ossetia told ITAR-TASS.

Unfortunately, so far the fate of three citizens of North Ossetia taken hostages in the village of Maiskiy of the Prigorodnyy district on March 30 this year, is not known yet.

The measures carried out to search and liberate six Ingushes who were taken hostages by criminals on May 19 in the city of Vladikavkaz have not produced positive results either.

Today President of North Ossetia Akhsarbek Galazov met with members of the presidiums of the government and the parliament of the republic, representatives of the law enforcement bodies of North Ossetia and the temporary administration. They discussed urgent measures to search for the hostages.

The president expressed an extremely negative attitude to the unlawful actions of persons involved in the crimes in the Maiskiy village and in Vladikavkaz, and stated that the leadership of North Ossetia would do everything in its power to find hostages and take additional measures to ensure security of residents of the republic.

Ingushetia To Impose Partial State of Emergency

LD2605181894 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1605 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Head of the temporary administration in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict Vladimir Lozovoy said that the state of emergency will be imposed only on a small part of the Sunzhenskiy and Malgobekskiy regions of Ingushetia.

Asked by IF's correspondent about the possibility of excluding this provision from a draft decree on extension of the state of emergency in the conflict zone, Lozovoy said: "I do not know why this question arises. We agreed on it with the Ingush president and he had no objections to it."

"These parts of the Sunzhenskiy and Malgobekskiy regions will perform the role of a buffer zone to prevent penetration of militants in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict," Lozovoy said.

In the meantime, in neighboring Chechnya armed forces were put on alert in connection with the possible expansion of the state of emergency in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

Groznyy assessed the intention to include the Sunzhenskiy and Malgobekskiy regions of Ingushetia in the state of emergency zone as "an act of open armed aggression." With the lack of an administrative border between Chechnya and Ingushetia these regions are a subject of dispute between the two republics.

Vice President on State of Emergency

LD2605174194 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1706 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The draft decree on expansion of the zone of state of emergency to the Ingush regions of Sunzhen and Malgobek is needed for settlement of the problem with Chechnya by force, Ingush Vice President Boris Agapov suggested. He stressed in an interview with Interfax that such "unreasonable decrees seem to be needed in order to lay the Russian president open to a blow."

Agapov said there was an evident attempt to create confrontation between the president and the Federation Council which would have to adopt the draft decree on May 31 when the term for the state of emergency expired.

Agapov emphasized that the process of territorial division between Chechnya and Ingushetia concerned these two regions which were disputed areas.

The decree said that the populated centers which, as Ingushetia had agreed, would go to the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, would be included in the zone of the state of emergency, Agapov pointed out.

In the context of this situation inclusion of the Sunzhen and Malgobek regions into the state of emergency zone

would mean a seizure of Chechen territory. It is hard even to imagine all consequences of such a move, Agapov underlined.

Agapov disapproved of this decision. He announced that when he had told the interim administration about it the administration had responded that it never knew about such serious consequences.

Agapov suggested that such recommendations could have been given by some politicians from the center who occupied certain posts in the federal bodies.

Chechnya Puts Troops on Alert

LD2605194694 Moscow *ITAR-TASS in English*
1549 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The Chechen leadership reacted negatively to the possible expansion of the zone under state of emergency in some parts of the Sunzha and Malgabek districts in Ingushetia.

According to the *CHECHENPRESS* news agency, Chechnya has put its troops on alert, the cabinet of ministers will be working in accordance with a "military" schedule for one week. Members of the cabinet came to a today's meeting in a military uniform.

The spreading of the zone under state of emergency to a part of the Sunzha and Malgabek districts in Ingushetia is regarded by the official Grozny as an "act of open armed aggression", the Chechen department of press and information told *ITAR-TASS*.

Political observers in Grozny believe that the initiative of the temporary administration on the expansion of the zone under state of emergency in Ingushetia may disrupt a planned meeting between Dzhokhar Dudayev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

CHECHENPRESS reports that the official authorities of Nazran believe that an attempt to impose state of emergency in the Malgabek and Sunzha districts in Ingushetia may destabilise the situation in north Caucasus.

At the same time the draft decree on the prolongation of state of emergency for another term was agreed with Ingush President Ruslan Aushev, head of the temporary administration in Moscow Vladimir Lozovoy told *ITAR-TASS*.

This decree really envisages the need to ensure normal work conditions for the forces attached to the temporary administration in some populated localities in the Sunzha and Malgabek districts of Ingushetia. This measure became necessary because a number of provocations took place exactly in those areas, and the presence of the Chechen police was reported there.

Vladimir Lozovoy has no information about an official reaction of the Chechen leadership to the draft decree.

The decree has not yet been adopted and therefore it is not worth commenting on this decree before it is issued, the head of the temporary administration pointed out.

State of Emergency Termed 'Aggression'

MK2705085794 Moscow *SEGODNYA in Russian*
27 May 94 p 2

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report in the "Caucasus" column: "Chechnya's Army Has Been Put on Alert. The Republic Is Ready To Resist the Expansion of the State of Emergency Zone in Ingushetia"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Federation Council Deputy Valeriy Fateyev, who recently visited the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, stated that the draft edict on extending the state of emergency in its present shape must not be signed under any circumstances. According to the deputy, it is important to "neutralize" the influence of politicians who "draft such edicts" and furthermore understand why they do this, he stressed. Mr. Fateyev said that such an approach contradicts the interests of the peoples of Russia and the North Caucasus because it will undoubtedly evoke a negative reaction from Chechnya and Ingushetia, which will aggravate the situation even more.

The Chechen Republic of Ichkeria has already responded to the proposed option for stabilizing the situation in the emergency zone. Grozny's official statement disseminated yesterday says that "the attempt to spread the emergency regime in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict to these areas will be seen by Chechnya as an act of open armed aggression." "The Chechen Foreign Ministry regards this as interference in the republic's internal affairs and in the event that Russian troops are positioned here, will view this as armed aggression," Chechnya's Foreign Minister Shamseddin Yusef stated in an interview with *INTERFAX*. According to him, in this event the republic will reserve the right to curb invasion of its territory by a foreign army. [passage omitted]

Special Economic Regime Proposed for Maritime Kray

MK2605125594 Moscow *KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian* 26 May 94 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "The Government Does Not Want to Have An 'Island Of The Far East'"]

[Text] Perhaps for the first time in its history the governmental Commission on Operational Matters has discussed purely economic problems. The first item on the agenda of the Soskovets commission's session yesterday was worded in a fairly all-embracing manner: On the Development Prospects of Maritime Kray Taking Into Account Russia's Geostrategic and Economic Interests in the Asian-Pacific Region. The government reacted seriously to the threat of the Far East's economic split from European Russia.

A central subject in the discussion of Far Eastern problems at the commission's session was the growing threat of Russia's economic disintegration. There are several reasons for such a threat. First of all Maritime Kray's remoteness. This results in sharp increases in transportation and energy costs for the local enterprises, so making them absolutely uncompetitive on the domestic market (even compared to enterprises located in European Russia). At the same time Far Eastern ports and railroad networks ensure 50 percent of Russia's export infrastructure.

According to First Deputy Economy Minister Andrey Shapovalyants, keeping Maritime Kray basically viable calls for approximately \$5 billion and 4.5 trillion rubles a year. Furthermore, the federal government is seriously worried about China's expansion in this region: At present there are approximately 150,000 Chinese citizens living in the region (many of them illegally). The half-hearted measures taken in the past (fixed coal prices, limited subsidies, and so forth) alleviated the region's economic burdens only to an extent, without resolving the problem in principle.

Virtually all the speakers stressed that today there is a real threat of Maritime Kray's economy breaking away and integrating into the economic system of the Pacific Rim countries as a "junior brother"—a supplier of raw materials. The gist of the government's reaction to this threat was summed up by Mr. Shapovalyants. In his opinion, it is necessary to talk about eventually establishing a "special economic regime" in the Far East.

It is clear however that spelling out the specific content of this term is not a matter for the immediate future (a special working group will deal with this). Yet even now the main features of such a "special zone" can be outlined. According to First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, the government should create conditions for using the raw materials potential of the Russian Far East precisely in the Far East.

The implementation of this concept could lead to the formation of a kind of economic enclave—a part effectively independent from European Russia and oriented mainly toward the economically most promising region—the Pacific Rim. In this event the main task for the federal government in this region will be to retain the military and export infrastructure as well as the local administration's political loyalty.

Also noteworthy is the idea of establishing a "location rent" for the Russian/European enterprises, which, although not discussed at the session, is contained in a memorandum by the State Industry Committee. This means that the situation of Far Eastern enterprises is deemed "normal" for Russia's economy while the others have to pay a kind of tax compensating for their more favorable geographic position.

True, as the session's results show, far less radical steps should be expected from the federal government in the

near future. In all likelihood, preferential transport tariffs will be established for Maritime Kray (the participants were impressed with the experience of the tsarist government which used such measures to invigorate economic activity in areas far away from Moscow). It is also likely that the sum of budget subsidies for the Maritime region will also be revised.

'Threat' of Maritime Kray's Economic Secession Viewed

*LD2605163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] The complicated social and economic situation in Primorskiy Territory [Maritime Kray] and huge, mainly demographic pressure by next door China can pose the threat of the region's gradual economic breakaway from Russia, the government Economic Management Commission in Moscow said on Wednesday.

Head of the industrial policy committee Igor Shurchkov said that such secession could lead to greater disintegration and a sharp deterioration in the country's defence capability. He also said that the region's economic hardships, its remoteness and Russia's transport troubles were posing a real threat of the region being used by Asian-Pacific countries simply as a net exporter of mining products and importer of "average quality products at best".

A resolution was adopted to form a commission of heads of regional departments and regional administration representatives to work out a package of proposals for economic recovery and on the prospects of regional development "in the context of Russia's geo-strategic and economic interests in the Asian-Pacific region." It was also indicated that the federal government and regional administration must meet to discuss the question of power sharing with each other.

Dniester Leader Says Russia Applying Economic Pressure

*LD2505164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1345 GMT 25 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Demidetskiy and Anatoliy Kholoyuk]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] May 25 TASS—Igor Smirnov, leader of the split-way Dniester Republic, today accused "definite political circles in Russia and Moldova of economically blackmailing the Dniester Republic".

Addressing a session of the Supreme Soviet of his unrecognized republic, he claimed that the said forces were "deliberately destabilising the financial situation on the left-hand bank of the Dniester River, striving to make Tiraspol more tractable in the talks on the withdrawal of the Russian 14th Army and on problems linked with its property".

The Dniester parliament today discussed the acute money shortage in the region. Tiraspol had refused to use Moldovan leis on its territory and decided to leave in circulation the Soviet money, annulled in all the CIS republics. This resulted in the catastrophic destabilisation of the financial system and led to the growth of inflation.

"The 60 billion roubles now in circulation are not enough to meet current expenses," Chairman of the Dniester Bank Vyacheslav Zagryadskiy told the parliament. He said that the government should deliver to Tiraspol the new money printed in Russia for the Dniester region. But "this cannot be done now due to the ban imposed by the Russian leadership," he noted.

The Dniester parliament decided to address an appeal to the Russian president, the State Duma and the Council of the Federation, asking them to help the Dniester administration solve the problem of cash money.

Northern Border District To Be Set Up

MK2705093394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 May 94 p 2

[Report by Captain 2nd Rank Vladimir Gundarov in the "News From the Regions—From Our Correspondents" column: "Perestroyka on the Border"]

[Text] Murmansk—Protection of Russia's state border in the arctic region will be restructured taking into account the development of links with Norway and Finland and also the opening of the Northern sea route to foreign vessels with calls at Russian ports. This requires the creation of a Northern Border District whose area of responsibility will stretch from the Kola Peninsula to Chukotka. This was announced by Colonel Anatoliy Koretskiy, chief of the Murmansk border guard operations department.

Commander's Dismissal 'Slap in the Face' to Fleet

PM2605161994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Oleg Padenko]

[Text] [Padenko] In the old days, when returning from assignments to the correspondent's office in Vladivostok, we would bring back souvenirs such as exotic shells, ornaments, or pictures. Nowadays we bring back mortar fragments like this from the scenes of explosions. Although just this type of souvenir—an unexploded mortar shell—nigh on turned the hair of the owner of this kitchen garden in Novonezhino white, while this old woman, Praskovya, who by some miracle avoided being buried alive in her own home, will now, like many others, have to live in another village.

[First unidentified speaker] The storage of ammunition in our country just takes the cake. They store matches more carefully around here than they do ammunition.

[Second unidentified speaker] The munitions dumps were overfilled with a huge quantity of ammunition brought in from the Baltic region over the last few months, which should have been destroyed over there somewhere. When the first rumblings were heard, I said to myself that I'd bet anything that the entire 53d depot was going up in smoke.

[Padenko] The old man was right—1,600 tonnes, 800 railcars of lethal weapons exploded, which is equivalent to a nuclear bomb. The tremors resounded across Ussuriysk Bay and were felt in Vladivostok, houses in several villages burned down, and a railroad was destroyed. The memorable munitions explosion of two years ago—you are watching footages of that disaster here—was nothing compared to this. Bombs and aviation missiles are still going off at will all over the place for miles around. The whole area has been staked out like a minefield. Unbelievably, but fortunately...

[Unidentified speaker] ...there have been no fatalities. Although, taking account of everything, there have been something like 23 casualties.

[Padenko] But for the mountains and the speedy evacuation, things could have been a lot worse. What is needed now is help, as the damage runs into tens of billions. But there is no money. Which is probably also the reason why the clearly naive sailors went to the depots and through criminal ignorance started off a small local war. You know, at present the Pacific Fleet is more than 30-percent undermanned. Many of the recent draftees are quite simply useless. And the amount of finance allocated to maintain one of the world's most powerful fleets is laughable—in May alone just 12 percent of the requirement was forthcoming. But at the same time I must stress, to counterbalance the accusations leveled, that combat readiness has actually increased. Mutual relations have improved, and the fleet's future is looking brighter. Which is why everybody was shocked by the dismissal of Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Gurinov. Officers' assemblies were held in the fleet, and appeals to the Russian president to repeal the dismissal were adopted.

[Rear Admiral A.A. Belousov] This is the opinion of officers and instructors at the Pacific Fleet Higher Naval Training School named for Admiral Makarov. It is the view of many Pacific Fleet commanders. And it is the view of many admirals.

[Captain First Rank A.I. Gruzdev] If Admiral Gurinov's dismissal from the post of fleet commander is upheld, then the Pacific Fleet personnel will see this as a slap in the face.

[Padenko] Harsh words, but true. Meanwhile, Vice Admiral Khmel'nov has been appointed acting commander of the Pacific Fleet.

International Affairs**Premier Says Moscow Talks With Crimea 'Ended in a Draw'***LD2605121794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1111 GMT 26 May 94*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Sergey Balykov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev May 26 TASS—Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy believes the talks in Moscow on the Black Sea Fleet and the Crimea ended in a draw. "In Moscow we did not win, but did not lose either," he told UKRINFORM upon his return from the Russian capital.

Zvyahilskyy described the talks as "very tense and nervous." "We tried to find variants of a positive solution of the tasks set by the Ukrainian president. We made concessions, but only those which could not result in the loss of Ukrainian wealth, its independence and sovereignty," he stressed.

The head of government said that five variants of the agreement, including that of the president, were submitted for Russian consideration. "The fact that none of them was adopted does not mean a defeat," he stressed and added that positive moments achieved in Moscow would help resume talks "more concretely, on the most acute issue."

The second round of negotiations is expected to begin in Kiev in 10-15 days.

According to Zvyahilskyy, during the Moscow talks "severe fight was going on for each word, for each sentence in the document which can help untie the Black Sea knot." He believes that the sides succeeded in general to positively solve the problem of sharing the disputed navy. Sevastopol will house the major base of the Russian Navy, while Balaklava and Donuzlav will become the main bases of the Ukrainian fleet, according to him.

"Donuzlav is a mighty and well-equipped base and Ukraine had no serious objections" about it. "Disagreements emerged after the Russian side raised the issue of basing its navy in other ports," he explained.

Zvyahilskyy hopes that the second round of negotiations will be "more constructive" and will result in the signing of the document on the Black Sea Fleet.

Crimea Parliament Speaker Says Republic Will Not Break Away*MK2605102694 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
26 May 94 p 1*

[Konstantin Parishkura report from Kiev under general headline: "Russia And Ukraine Have Divided the Ships. Now They Are Only Left To Decide on How To Position Them"]

[Text] On Wednesday Boris Oleynik, chief of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation at the negotiations with the Crimean Supreme Council delegation, at a news conference voiced his satisfaction with the results of the meeting with delegates from the peninsula. As is known, a decision was made to recommend to the Ukrainian and Crimean Supreme Councils that they set up a joint working group. The Ukrainian delegation asked the Crimean Supreme Council within three days to consider the question of suspending the legislative acts adopted on 20 May for the entire period that the joint working group will be in session.

Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, stated that Crimea has no intention of seceding from Ukraine: "This can be suggested only by those who are not familiar with the content of Crimean laws." True, he failed to respond to the question about how his words correlate with the program provision of the Crimean Republican Party, of which he is a member, about the peninsula's joining Russia.

FRG, Finnish, Moldovan Ministries Respond to Zlenko Appeal*AU2605151594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in
Ukrainian 25 May 94 p 10*

[Unattributed report: "Diplomats Are Interpreting the Crimean Problem"]

[Text] As is known, Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent an appeal by Minister A. Zlenko to the heads of the external political departments of other states on the recent events in the Crimea. Responses to the document are already streaming in. For example, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs disseminated the statement by FRG Foreign Minister K. Kinkel to the effect that the Federal Government is following the recent events on the Crimean Peninsula with concern. Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence are essential for stability and peaceful relations in Europe and cannot be subject to any doubt. The Federal Government hopes, continues the statement by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that all interested political forces realize the significance of the fundamental obligations within the framework of the CSCE and the unconditional need to adhere to them.

The head of the Finnish external political department, H. Haavisto, stated that he hoped that the problems that had arisen after the well-known decision by the Crimean Supreme Council would be resolved as soon as possible through negotiations and assured that Ukraine's position and concern would be brought to the attention of the state's top-level leadership.

During the meeting of Ukrainian Ambassador in the Moldovan Republic V. Boyko with Moldovan Minister of Foreign Affairs N. Osmoquescu [as published], the Moldovan side assured the ambassador that the content

of the letter would be brought to the attention of President M. Snegur and leadership of the Moldovan parliament. Moldova, which has suffered from the policy of separatism, pointed out the head of the Moldovan external political department, is fully aware of the danger that the actions of the Crimean power structures are fraught with, fully supports the Ukrainian leadership, and condemns the separatists.

EU Expresses Support for Ukraine Over Crimea

LD2605201794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Today, as the country holding the European Union [EU] Presidency, the Greek embassy in Ukraine issued a statement on events in Crimea. The document reads: "The European Union expresses grave concern at the developments in Ukraine's Crimean region and backs further efforts on the settlement of the problems on the basis of law by way of negotiations, without confrontation or unilateral actions." The statement emphasizes: "The EU once again states its full support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine in accordance with the UN Charter and Helsinki Agreements and warns against any attempts to destabilize the situation in the region, as any escalation of the conflict will lead to grave consequences for the whole of the East European region."

Association Demands 'Measures' Against Crimean Separatists

LD2605202794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] On 25 May, the democratic association "Ukraine" circulated an appeal which, in particular, says that "the Ukrainian president's belated response to the antistate actions by the Crimean separatists has failed to bridle the orgy of the chauvinist forces on the peninsula... Reluctant moves by official Kiev, aimed at preserving Ukraine's territorial integrity, will not produce the anticipated result. The half-hearted measures taken by our authorities to restore the constitutional system in Crimea can encourage Russia to interfere in the domestic affairs of our state and appropriate the Black Sea Fleet."

The statement underlines that now, when the international situation is favorable for Ukraine, it is necessary to carry out a series of resolute measures which will neutralize the course of events in Crimea which is detrimental to our statehood. For this purpose, it is necessary, in particular, "to dissolve the antistate Supreme Council of Crimea because of or the actions aimed at violating Ukraine's territorial integrity; to rescind the resolution by the Supreme Council of Ukraine on the territorial autonomy of Crimea until those nations deported by the Soviet-Stalinist regime return to the peninsula; to subordinate all the power structures in Crimea to the state bodies of Ukraine; to break through the informational blockade of Crimea

ensuring normal functioning of the electronic mass media and circulation of local Ukrainian and all-Ukrainian newspapers and magazines; to ensure the validity of all the laws of Ukraine on the territory of Crimea as a constituent part of the Ukrainian state; to begin negotiations with Russia on withdrawing all units of Russian troops and the Black Sea Fleet shore-based services from Crimea and the entire Black Sea coast of Ukraine."

Official Says Russia, Ukraine Should Avoid Media War

LD2605214794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2031 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Kiev May 26 TASS—"We should take joint efforts to avoid media confrontation. This can be achieved mostly by means of consultations, negotiations and compromises", Ukraine president's spokesman Viktor Stelmakh said in an exclusive interview with TASS on Thursday.

Commenting on the decision by Ukraine's Foreign Ministry to strip three newsmen of the Ostankino TV network of their accreditation and on the protest of Russian media chiefs against this decision, the spokesman noted that recently Ukraine had become "an objective of a massed information onslaught by Russian and some foreign mass media", adding that "for some objective reasons, our information capacities cannot be considered adequate".

"Perhaps this prompted the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry to resort to such a drastic measure as a means of self-defence", he explained.

According to Stelmakh, Ukraine is also concerned over certain statements by Russian top officials, which he described as "far from being friendly", which cannot but affect relations between the two countries.

The spokesman expressed confidence that there would not be any reasons for "raising a question about violation of international law with respect to media representatives" if the two states carry on a constructive dialogue for better mutual understanding and if newsmen comply with rules of journalists' ethics.

Stelmakh dismissed recent reports about the possibility of discriminatory measures towards TASS correspondents in Ukraine.

Tarasyuk: Ukraine 'Not To Blame' for Failure To Sign Accord

LD2605142094 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] "The Ukrainian side is not to blame" for failure to sign the final document on the Black Sea Fleet's division at the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations, the Ukrainian

chief negotiator Boris Tarasyuk, a deputy foreign minister has told journalists on his return from Moscow.

In his opinion, the Ukrainian delegation "displayed enough flexibility and readiness to compromise." The Ukrainian side, he noted, offered five draft accords to choose from.

At the same time, Tarasyuk described the latest round of talks in Moscow as "very useful." "The shaping-up breakthrough justifies the delay with signing a document," he said.

In his words, Ukrainian and Russian experts are given ten days to agree on terms to divide the Black Sea Fleet and to set aside bases for the Russian Navy in Ukraine.

He reported that the negotiation partners had reaffirmed the outcome of the previous talks on the Black Sea Fleet's division and "agreed approaches to the crucial issues" on Russian naval facilities.

At the same, in his words, "one cannot talk of the complete absence of differences, which is natural since the interests of the two states are at stake."

Naval Officers Demand Disbandment of River Unit

*MK2605102994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
26 May 94 p 1*

[Viktor Yadukha report from Simferopol under general headline: "Russia and Ukraine Have Divided The Ships. Now They Are Only Left To Decide On How To Position Them"]

[Text] The situation in Crimea remains quiet. The armored personnel carriers spotted the day before on the railroad near Simferopol have been towed away to join a national guard brigade whose strength, according to Ukrainian First Deputy Interior Minister Col. Gen. Valentin Nedrigaylo, will soon reach 2,500.

Intensive consultations are under way in the Crimean parliament on forming a working group which is to discuss outstanding issues with Kiev by 30 May. The group's composition is expected to be approved at a Crimean parliament session before 27 May.

According to reports from Izmail, where a Black Sea Fleet river boats brigade is based, a group of Ukraine navy officers led by Lt. Col. Krichevskiy arrived at the local Black Sea Fleet naval engineers service. He stated that before 1 June a corresponding Ukraine Navy unit will be formed on the basis of the Izmail division and, on pain of dismissal, demanded that the personnel switch their allegiance and serve the Ukraine military department. Black Sea Fleet servicemen refused to obey this demand.

Following this incident, Captain 1st Rank Dmitriy Ukrainets, chief of the Ukraine Navy Western Maritime

Protection Zone, stated that no one had given Lt. Col. Krichevskiy any such powers.

Radetskyy Submits PFP Cooperation Guidelines to NATO

*LD2705103594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1955
GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] Brussels [no dateline as received]—Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukraine's defense minister and general of the Army, continued on 26 May his official visit to the NATO headquarters.

On 25 May, at the Ukrainian president's instruction, Radetskyy handed Sergio Balanzino, deputy chairman of the North Atlantic Council, a presentation document outlining guidelines for Ukraine's cooperation with NATO states within the Partnership for Peace [PFP] program. The submission of this document means that Ukraine has become one of the first NATO partner states whose relations with the North Atlantic bloc are being transferred into a practical framework. The first step of Ukraine's cooperation with NATO will be the participation of Ukrainian servicemen, together with American, Hungarian, and Polish soldiers in a special military exercise scheduled to take place this summer in Poland.

Swiss Delegation Discusses Missile Technologies Control

*WS2705090394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First
Program Network in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 27 May
94*

[Text] A Swiss delegation, headed by Rolf (Hessler), deputy secretary for foreign economic issues, envoy of the Federal Council for Control Over Exports, is visiting Ukraine at the invitation of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. The delegation was received by First Deputy Foreign Minister Mykola (Mytarenko). The guests held a number of meetings, in particular with Volodymyr Horbulin, general manager of the National Technical Agency. The sides discussed the issues concerning Ukraine's future access to the system of control over missile technologies [SCMT]. The system currently includes 25 states, whose governments have agreed to adhere to jointly adopted principles and regulations while international transfer of [word indistinct] equipment and technologies, in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction delivery systems. Mr. (Hessler), currently the SCMT head, highly assessed the steps taken by the Ukrainian Government to establish efficient control over the exports of appropriate products and technologies.

National Affairs

Kravchuk To Propose Solution to 'Crimean Problems' 31 May

*LD2605212694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2043 GMT 26 May 94*

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Kovalenko—TASS]

[Text] Kiev May 27 TASS—Ukrainian parliament Chairman Aleksandr Moroz told a parliament session on Thursday that President Leonid Kravchuk intended to address lawmakers next Tuesday [31 May] in order to propose his solution of the Crimean problems. With this in view, the session decided to hold a closed-door plenary meeting on Tuesday morning.

The speaker also announced the Ukrainian president's intention to present for parliament's consideration his nominees for the post of prime minister.

Exercising his right to legislative initiatives, Kravchuk also plans to propose some amendments to the election law, Moroz said.

Reportedly Preparing for Presidential Rule

LD2605151194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1125 GMT 26 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ukraine and Crimea have pledged to resolve the dispute about the degree of autonomy enjoyed by the Crimean peninsula through negotiations. However, according to the statement of Ukraine's deputy prime minister Zhulynskyy, President Kravchuk intends to dissolve the Crimean Parliament in the near future and introduce presidential rule on the territory of the peninsula in the event of the Crimean legislators refusing to reject the new constitution. It is still not clear what place Crimean President Meshkov occupies in the political plans of President Kravchuk. One thing is clear—at any moment the situation may get out of control.

Meshkov Asserts That Peace Guarantees Exist in Crimea

LD2605150394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1342 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Simferopol, 26 May (ITAR-TASS)—"Guarantees of stability and peace in Crimea exist and they will be provided for," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said today at a session of the Crimean parliament which took place here. "There are no fears, no threats, 'the hot heads' are surrounded by normal, calm people and they will not be permitted to work their evil deeds either in Crimea or Ukraine, or anywhere else," he stressed.

The president of Crimea appealed to representatives of the mass media to reassure their listeners, viewers, and readers.

Crimea Seeks To Settle Conflict at Negotiating Table

LD2605151994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Simferopol May 26 TASS—The Crimea is seeking to settle differences with Ukraine only at the negotiating table, local parliament speaker Sergey Tsekov emphasised in an exclusive interview with TASS on Thursday.

He gave a positive assessment of today's talks between Crimean and Ukrainian parliamentary delegations in Kiev. According to him, the negotiating teams managed to reach understanding and to enter into dialogue in search for a compromise.

"We have an impression that Ukraine's Supreme Soviet is determined to find a solution to the existing problems and realizes that the current complicated situation in the Crimea was prompted by certain reasons", Tsekov pointed out. "It is not a result of activities of some political extremists and radicals that have come to power. This situation is quite objective, and problems it is generating should be solved without any use of force, but solely by means of negotiations", he stressed.

The Crimean parliament speaker believes a mutual compromise would determine "Ukraine's fate rather than the Crimea's future". He noted that "all that has been done so far just tended to drive the existing problems deeper down. In fact, tensions were gradually stirred up over the past eighteen months of a difficult transition period. Meanwhile, there are no grounds for fuelling passions at the moment. Assertions about stepped up military preparations in the Crimea do not correspond to reality. Although there are certain facts: Amassing of Ukraine's national guard troops, sending of armoured combat vehicles to Simferopol. But all this is not as serious as one could think", Tsekov said. He warned that the situation should not be further aggravated. This threatens to affect the upcoming season of summer vacations, and therefore to undermine the Crimea's local budget.

"If one intends to foment a conflict in the Crimea, he will not need large military forces, 500 troops will be quite enough", the Crimean speaker noted. But combat operations on the peninsula would inevitably mean its separation from Ukraine forever, he stressed, citing the examples of Nagorno-Karabakh, Moldova's Dniester region and Abkhazia. "We do not want this to happen. Obviously the use of military force cannot solve the existing problems", Tsekov said.

Ukrainian National Guard in Crimea Reported Being Armed

LD2605220494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Quoting (Anatoliy Feofilaktov), a deputy in the Crimean Supreme Soviet, INTERFAX reports that

Ukrainian national guards who have arrived in Crimea are being armed. The deputy claims that 2,600 assault rifles, light machine guns, grenade launchers, and other weapons have been brought from Kiev. In addition, armored personnel carriers have been removed from storage in the settlement of Perevalnoye near Yalta. (Feofilaktov) also said that all of the national guardsmen who had arrived were wearing civilian clothing.

(Aleksandr Kostyukov), brigade commander in the Ukrainian National Guard in the Crimea, categorically denied this.

Situation Calm While Crimean Parliament Meets

*LD2605153194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1425 GMT 26 May 94*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Simferopol May 26 TASS—The Crimean local parliament's first session resumed its work on Thursday by electing Crimean representatives to a joint working group, which is to prepare agreed-upon proposals for the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments.

The working group is being set up under a decision taken as a result of the Kiev talks earlier this week between Ukrainian and Crimean plenipotentiary parliamentary delegations. The group will include five Crimean lawmakers, as well as four experts in law.

At the same time, the Crimean parliamentarians postponed at least until tomorrow debates on the issue of suspending, for the period of the group's activities, the acts passed by parliament on May 20, 1994.

The session, which adjourned last week after passing a law "On Restoration of Constitutional Foundations of the Crimean Republic's Statehood", is due to approve a new Crimean Government named by President Yuriy Meshkov. Lawmakers will also discuss a programme for pulling the peninsula out of the current economic crisis and for stabilizing its agro-industrial complex, as well as endorse a series of presidential decrees.

The session is proceeding in a quiet and businesslike atmosphere. Passions outside the parliament building calmed down. A mere several dozens of demonstrators still go on picketing under slogans demanding for greater independence for the Crimean republic.

Crimean Security Chief Says Kravchuk Decree Illegal

*LD2605203094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600
GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] Simferopol, [no dateline as received]—A statement by Volodymyr Lefykhov, the chairman of the Security Service of Crimea, was circulated in the republic today.

Volodymyr Lefykhov believes that the decree by the president of Ukraine "On the Main Directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine in Crimea," signed on 18 May, violates the law of Ukraine "On the Security Service." The Supreme Council of Ukraine did not consider the changes connected with the decree by Leonid Kravchuk, and there is no resolution by the Supreme Council of Ukraine that would legally fix the changes in the law.

In the opinion of Volodymyr Lefykhov, all this gives grounds to believe that the decree by the president of Ukraine of 18 May "is illegal and illegitimate in all respects."

"In the present-day complicated situation such actions raise strong doubts about the assurances by the official circles of Ukraine that they wish to ensure durable civil peace and accord, the rights and freedoms of every citizen in Crimea," says the statement by the Crimean Security Service chairman.

Kuchma Deems Ukraine-Crimea Treaty Necessary

*LD2605175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1339 GMT 26 May 94*

[Text] Ukrainian people's deputy Leonid Kuchma, leader of the inter-regional bloc of reforms and candidate to the Ukrainian presidency, believes that "one should rule out any military solution to the Crimean issue." "A treaty is the only way to settle the conflict," says Kuchma's statement distributed on Thursday.

In his opinion, "it is possible and necessary" to preserve the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine's borders by establishing relations with Crimea on the basis of a treaty minding the Constitutions of Ukraine and Crimea."

Kuchma underlined that the Crimean parliament had no legal right to adopt a decision on restoration of Crimea's Constitution dated May 6, 1992 "without preliminary negotiations with Kiev."

The Crimean deputies, he says, "appeared in a trap prepared by those political forces which want to destabilize the situation in Crimea in order to cancel the presidential elections and the elections of Ukraine's local power bodies scheduled for June 26."

At the same time, Kuchma believes that several Ukrainian political forces "who constantly speak about the need to deprive Crimea of its autonomy, should carry their share of responsibility for this tension."

"Everything that is going on in Crimea over the last two years is being done with the silent consent and approval of Kiev," stresses the statement. Kuchma places "a substantial share of responsibility" on several Russian politicians of "chauvinist orientation" who provoked the Crimean radicals to urge immediate rejection of Ukrainian jurisdiction.

Kuchma concluded that "all attempts of the new states on the territory of the former USSR to solve the problems of autonomy by coercive means had led to war and only after bloody battles the parties saw the need to sit at the negotiating table."

Crimean Supreme Council Rejects Meshkov Cabinet

LD2605183194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1628 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Simferopol, 26 May—The "prosperity in unity" slogan which is written on the Crimean coat of arms today did not work: The Supreme Council deputies turned down the Cabinet proposed by the republic's president, Yuriy Meshkov. It has been decided to return to the discussion after Vice President Yevgeniy Saburov provides the Supreme Council permanent commissions a detailed structure of the Cabinet of Ministers, in which several posts have been offered to politicians and economists from Moscow.

The discussion in which representatives of different parliamentary groups took part demonstrated a significant difference of opinion. To a certain degree it confirmed the president's description of the evolved situation as the "third government crisis." Yuriy Meshkov's demonstrative gesture increased the impression when he left the room when his proposal was rejected together with the Cabinet which was not approved.

Nevertheless, behind the scenes there is an opinion that the deputies will be able to find a mutually acceptable way out of the evolved impasse.

The session will continue tomorrow.

Crimean Supreme Council in Turmoil Over Forming Government

LD2605171894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1216 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] [Announcer] Today's reports testify to some stabilization of the Crimea situation. Let us hear what Mayak's ever-objective correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov has to say.

[Plotnikov] Good day. Today we have the session of the Crimea Supreme Council continuing—that is where emotions are highest. The main issue is forming a government for the republic and the working group to continue the talks with the Ukrainian side on the problems of which you and our listeners are well aware.

The deputies did decide to deal with the first issue, the working group, first of all, because continuing the talks and curbing the tension between Simferopol and Kiev are exceptionally important and time is very tight—just 10 days. More than half the time that has been allocated

has already passed. Having discussed the personalities, the deputies elected the working group and the Ukrainian Supreme Council will now also appoint a group. In the next few days they will continue their joint search for ways out of the political confrontation.

Peace and calm in the peninsula are essential conditions for economic reform. Removing this tension is absolutely vital and this is what Deputy prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov talked about in his speech. He addressed the deputies for 40 minutes, outlined the main problems for the economy of Crimea and the options there are for its development. He then spent 90 minutes, maybe more, answering questions, and after that there was even more discussion and something I think was quite unexpected—for Saburov himself and even for President Meshkov: The majority of deputies were very sharply critical of the government's program, in particular, for being woolly, for not making provision for public welfare for the poor, for not taking account of the ideas and suggestions of Crimean economists and their managers in the economy. Key posts in the government have been allocated not to local officials, but to people from Moscow.

It began to look like a government crisis, and President Yuriy Meshkov took the floor. You know how passionately he can speak, and that is how he spoke on this occasion. He appealed to the deputies to cast aside grievances and reproaches and to vote for the government. Several proposals were then made. Saburov spoke once again and deputies then broke up for a recess, for consultations, and at 1720—in one hour's time—they will gather for the vote. So I hope we will find out what the outcome of our latest government crisis—and I hope that the crisis will not materialize, that the deputies will vote for—in an hour's time.

Supreme Council Appoints Heads of Commissions

LD2605204594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1758 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Speaker Aleksandr Moroz told deputies today that Communist representatives would head the parliamentary commission on the fuel and energy complex, that on transport and communications and the commission on legislation and law.

Moroz said that a RUKh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroika] representative would lead the commission on nuclear policy and nuclear safety.

The Unity faction will lead the commission on juridical policy and state structure, that on local government and the commission on economic policy.

Representatives of the Center group will head the commission on health care, protection of childhood and motherhood and that on basic industries and social-economic development of regions.

Moroz commented on the balance of forces in the parliament. It is the following: the communist faction - 87 representatives; the Center deputy group - 43; the socialist faction - 25; the agrarian faction - 33; the Unity faction - 27; the Reforms deputy group - 26 and the Statehood faction 26 representatives. There are 41 independent deputies who have joined none of these groups or factions.

Electoral Commission Registers 7 Presidential Candidates

WS2605142994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission [words indistinct] has completed the registration of candidates. In accordance with Article 28 of the Law of Ukraine on presidential elections, the Central Electoral Commission registered Leonid Kravchuk, Ivan Plyushch, Valeriy Babych, Leonid Kuchma, Volodymyr Lanovyy, Oleksandr Moroz, and Petro Talanchuk as candidates for Ukrainian president.

Moroz Suspended as Socialist Party Leader

WS2605145794 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 25 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Oleksandr Moroz Suspended As Ukrainian Socialist Party Leader"]

[Text] On 21 May, the Ukrainian Socialist Party [SPU] Political Council held a meeting. The SPU leadership met Oleksandr Morozov's request and decided to suspend his powers as the party's leader. According to a declaration issued by the Political Council, this was a justified move: The Supreme Council chairman is not allowed to pursue internal party interests (which are many) to the detriment of national interests (which are even more). On the other hand, the document's authors said that Oleksandr Moroz will remain unquestioned leader of the party. Sergey Kishko, people's deputy and assistant professor at the Donetsk State Technical University, was appointed acting head of the organization. According to its statute, the issue of the party's chairman will be examined at its congress set for this fall. Curiously enough, Oleksandr Moroz did not attend the meeting since he went to Kaniv to participate in festivities devoted to the reburial of Taras Shevchenko's remains.

Crimean Economy in 'Gravest Condition'

LD2605203494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] Simferopol May 26 TASS—Crimean economy is in "the gravest condition". This diagnosis was included

in the report of Crimean Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Saburov, who addressed the first session of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the peninsular republic, which resumed its work on Thursday.

According to Saburov, one of the major contributing factors to the economic situation consists in Ukraine's opposition towards initiatives aimed at economic stabilization, which resulted in virtual disruption of the forthcoming summer vacation season. (Crimea used to be one of the most popular places to spend one's summer vacation in the former Soviet Union; it is famous for its numerous resorts, beaches, entertainments, etc.)

When explaining measures suggested by the Crimean Government and aimed to lead the republic out of the crisis, Saburov pointed out the task of attracting external investments.

In his opinion, developing the transportation sphere should be the first priority - that is, developing a network of airports and sea ports, establishing a trade route along the Strait of Kerch.

The second guideline is the recreation field based on Crimea's huge resort/sanatorium potential and oriented to the average consumer.

Investments in development of the oil and gas-extracting industry are also important, but, however, potential damage to Crimean nature has to be taken into account.

To conclude, the vice-premier pointed out reinforcing the leading industries and agriculture.

He described privatization as one of the major means of raising production effectiveness. He also envisioned a substantial liberalization in the economic field, an open-door policy in respect of investors and lifting many other restrictions.

In Saburov's opinion, it will take about two years for Crimea to overcome the crisis, provided that "the government acts correctly".

When debating on the report, lawmakers made some pungent criticisms in regard of the report and the proposed programme for stabilizing the economy.

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov emphasized that it is absolutely inadmissible to accuse the government, which has not actually set about working, which does not exist in point of fact.

Meshkov called upon the lawmakers to realize the full measure of their responsibility before the people of Crimea, to appreciate the confidence they are enjoying and take care of the interests of the Crimeans, rather than their own ambitions and self-esteem.

Kravchuk Says Ukraine Eager To Join GATT

LD2605212194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2045 GMT 26 May 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev May 27 TASS—President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine met with a delegation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), led by Andy Stoler, chairman of commission on Ukraine's joining the GATT, on Thursday.

The visitors are taking part in the governmental conference on Ukraine's joining GATT and the World Trade Organisation in Kiev.

The process of Ukraine's joining GATT has already begun, Kravchuk told the delegation.

It is rather important for our economy and development of the country on the whole. We are aware that the process of entering GATT has its laws and regulations and will do our utmost to pass it as soon as possible, Kravchuk said.

Fuel-Starved Nuclear Plants in Danger of Closure

LD2605175194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 26 May 94

[Excerpt] If power engineering stops, all other industries will stop. This was what Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk told a conference of electric power engineering enterprises' managers. Conditions are rife for this. The situation that has come about in this basic industry of exceptional significance to the national economy, is extremely complex and serious. There are, in particular, quite a lot of problems in nuclear power engineering that, to a considerable extent, ensured the work of the national economic complex last winter.

Even now we are fulfilling our commitments to the state and increasing the output of the cheapest kind of electric power, said Mykhaylo Umanets, Ukraine's DerzhKormAtom [State Committee for the Use of Nuclear Power] chairman. All our reserves have unfortunately been extended. Some of the generating sets have not been provided with fuel and will stop in the very near future. [passage omitted]

Army Official Reports No Draft Dodging

LD2605130094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0720
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 26 May—"There is no disruption in the staffing of troop units today," said Major-General Valeriy Venher, head of the main organization and mobilization directorate of the general Headquarters of Ukraine's Armed Forces, at an armed forces briefing on the problems of staffing and conscription.

With regard to the "Crimean problem", Valeriy Venher said that conscription in Crimea is going according to plan, and that the military commissar in the autonomy is obeying only the orders of Ukraine's commander in chief and minister of defense.

Valeriy Venher refused to quote any figures concerning the draft or discharge, saying "they are not to be made public." He did say that 800 people did alternative service last year. On the whole, the head of the organization and mobilization main directorate believes, this type of service found little support among conscripts.

Sabotage Act Against Sevastopol Military Unit Foiled

LD2605214394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service issued a report in which it draws attention to the instances connected with a provocation attempt against the command post of the radio engineering brigade of the anti-aircraft defense forces of our state located in Sevastopol. Two instances have occurred over the past few days that testify to such intentions. What the press service has in mind is the fact that places, prepared by unknown persons for planting an explosive, and a wire laid down to blow it up, were discovered near the above command post. Quite probably, says the report, this could have been done by an unknown person detained here, who turned out to be a reserve Black Sea Fleet officer. A large amount of the explosive has been confiscated from him.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry press service reports that competent bodies launched an investigation into the above instances. The name of the detained person has not been disclosed so far in the interests of the investigation.

Belarus**Government Addresses SELSKAYA ZHIZN Readers**

PM2605120594 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 May 94 p 1

[Address from Republic of Belarus Government "To the Readers of This Issue"]

[Text] Esteemed rural workers of the Russian Federation! The mutual interest in the lives of our states' peoples is determined by the proximity of their destinies in the past and present.

The Belarusian countryside is experiencing similar difficulties to the Russian countryside at a complex period in its history. In the recent past Belarus was one of the leading republics in terms of per capita agricultural production.

The marketable production of milk, meat, and potatoes made it possible not only to meet our own requirements but also to deliver a substantial quantity, under mutually advantageous exchange, to other republics and primarily to Russia. Large livestock raising complexes similar to the specialized farming facilities of Western countries made it possible to achieve high production indicators.

Belarus was one of the Russian countryside's most reliable partners for deliveries of tractors, other agricultural equipment, and mineral fertilizers. Today too it is prepared for the closest cooperation with Russia's rural workers and to supply reliable equipment and other output. The actions of our states' governments in concluding the treaty on the union of our monetary systems were also aimed at such relations.

With the start of the treaty's operation artificial obstacles will be lifted which are dividing not only states but primarily the inhabitants of cities and villages—barriers which have artificially arisen between us.

The present development of the Republic of Belarus' agriculture is proceeding within the scheme of a mixed economy and rational support for collective farms and peasants' private plots. The main principle of our reforms in the countryside is not to destroy but to help all commodity producers irrespective of forms of ownership, all those who are able and capable and willing to work honestly on the land.

The breakdown of our ties is affecting the position of the Belarusian countryside, the production of reliable agricultural equipment, and the mutually advantageous exchange of the fruit of their labor between the peoples of Russia and Belarus.

We sincerely hope that this influence is of a temporary, transient nature and that common sense will prevail.

We wish that the Russian rural workers may successfully overcome the difficulties of our complex time and we

wish them favorable conditions for spring work and hope for the restoration and development of the traditional fraternal ties with the Belarusian countryside and between our peoples.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Hryb Interviewed

PM2605130994 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Mechyslaw Hryb, chairman of the Belarusian Parliament, by Anatoliy Gulyayev; date and place of interview not stated: "Orientation to the East"]

[Text] The 13th session of the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet ended recently. In addition to the fact that it was the longest in the entire history of the present corps of deputies (with intermissions it lasted about five months) it adopted very important decisions. Our correspondent talks about the results of the session's work with Mechyslaw Hryb, chairman of the Belarusian Parliament.

[Gulyayev] The start of this year was marked by the aggravation of the situation in the republic. As a result the 13th session of the Supreme Soviet dismissed its chairman, Stanislav Shushkevich, and elected you. Forecasts for the development of events at the time were very unreassuring. Various political forces demanded the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet as being unable to make the decisions the republic needed. But then suddenly the same Supreme Soviet adopted the republic's constitution and a whole series of very important documents. What happened?

[Hryb] What should have happened. The chairman of the Supreme Soviet, elected to the post through the will of the majority of deputies, set himself against that majority. In this situation there could be no systematic, consistent work. It is absolutely natural that the majority decided to relieve him of his post.

But after the replacement of the leadership we managed to set up normal, consistent work. As a result of which documents were adopted that were truly fateful for the republic—primarily the Republic of Belarus Constitution. The state's system was defined as a presidential republic and we managed to single out the priority of citizens' rights over the state.

All this is extraordinarily important! Let's think about it: After the collapse of the former structures Belarus was left in fact without a power. The grassroots did not obey the upper echelons, the upper echelons paid no attention to the grassroots, mostly resolving their own problems.

But now that there is a new constitution and a law has been adopted on the presidential elections and their date has been set—at any rate we can now see the path along which we must travel. We will elect the head of state and accept his oath and approve the makeup of the government.... That is the process of creating an effective power has begun. Without losing control of the country.

[Gulyayev] Mechyslaw Ivanovich, can one say today that understanding has finally been reached between the branches of power? After all no effectiveness will be achieved otherwise....

[Hryb] I think I can boldly assert that there has been consolidation. The main thing is that we have common ideas of the paths for Belarus' development and a common orientation toward the East. Moreover, the Supreme Soviet has given the government the powers it has always sought.

Moreover, the Supreme Soviet intends to render real aid to the government in resolving the most diverse questions. For instance, there was an opinion that the parliamentarians should not be involved with the economy. We broke with that tradition and recently adopted a presidium decree on backing up the sowing campaign. Perhaps this decree has not worked completely but our peasants were provided with fuel and seeds this year.... And virtually all apart from mineral fertilizers were supplied in the necessary quantity.

The presidium has now examined the question of housing cooperative construction. The construction workers do not have the funds to finish what they have begun, nor do people have the funds to pay for what has been constructed. But we have found ways of resolving this problem.

That is the situation is as follows: We are trying to address the problem, not to avoid it. At a time when the former Supreme Soviet leadership was saying: The economy is not our business. But after all, people do not care who helps them live better—it is just important to help! And in that sense we are cooperating and are prepared to continue to cooperate with the executive power. But of course as long as the government does not avoid its powers or exceed them....

[Gulyayev] You said you are united with the government in your orientation toward the East. Here you cannot avoid the popular question of the ruble zone....

[Hryb] In principle I approve this agreement, only I propose changing the formulation of some articles. Including the fifth and eighth—changing them so that it is not necessary to make changes to our constitution which has only just been born. The Supreme Soviet may not make such changes and there is no need for it. I talked with Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin at the conference of heads of state. They agree that it is possible to elaborate a text acceptable to both sides.

But as a whole, I repeat, I approve and support this very good and in my view sensible step which apart from anything else should help to stabilize the situation in the republic.

[Gulyayev] But today it is also influenced by the election campaign....

[Hryb] Yes, 19 initiative groups from 19 contenders have already been registered. I do not know whether

many of them will collect the necessary number of votes to register as a candidate. But I think that we will get into the Guinness Book of Records for the number of contenders for the top state post.

And a serious struggle is already under way. Among the candidates there will probably be people who will not use the most civilized methods. At any rate attempts to set one category of the population on another already exist. And the situation could undoubtedly be aggravated. Although in our view there are no prerequisites for events to assume an uncontrollable nature.

In conclusion allow me to wish your readers the very best. May those who have not yet completed it carry out the sowing campaign successfully. So that later there is something to harvest from the fields—in Belarus and in Russia, wherever the farmer puts seed into the ground. And, most important, I wish you stability in your life! So that the peasant can finally do his noble job in peace.

Vyacheslav Kebich Heads Presidential Elections

*LD2605194994 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1545 GMT 26 May 94*

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zhrebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has substantially left behind his contenders in the presidential marathon.

According to preliminary data of the Central election committee as of Thursday morning (the information was received after the verification of the ballot papers with the signatures of the republic's citizens in support of this or that candidate to the presidency in the regional and city electoral commissions and annulment of signatures recognized invalid), it appeared that about 364,000 citizens of the republic have nominated Vyacheslav Kebich. (The minimum number needed for the contenders to be registered in the Central election committee as an official candidate to the presidency is 100,000 - Interfax).

In addition, the constitutional majority of the parliament, 236 people's deputies under the necessary minimum equal to 70 votes, are in favor of Kebich's promotion.

Leader of the opposition Belarussian Popular Front Zenon Poznyak occupies the second place. His initiative group has collected as many as 215,000 signatures.

Vasiliy Novikov, who was nominated by the Party of Belarus' communists, is on the third place with 180,000 signatures. Leader of the former parliamentary commission to combat corruption Aleksandr Lukashenko who has managed to collect 152,000 signatures follows Novikov.

Ex-speaker of the Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich occupies the fifth place in the list of contenders (as many as 122,000 signatures). Representative of the Agrarian party Aleksandr Dubko is not far behind (113,000 signatures).

The team of the chairman of the Party of Popular Accord Gennadiy Karpenko handed over 109,000 signatures to the electoral commissions. However, after invalid ballot papers were annulled there remained only 86,000 votes; that's why he has no juridical right to continue the struggle for presidency. Karpenko's hopes to become the parliamentarians' nominee failed as well. Though he managed to collect signatures of 78 deputies, on Wednesday as many as 11 of them, predominantly representatives of the Social Democratic party, unexpectedly recalled their signatures. IF Note: During his conversation with our Interfax correspondent leader of the Belarussian social-democrats Oleg Trusov who heads the initiative group of the ex-speaker explained this behavior of his single minded deputies by the revenge for the "gentlemen agreement" between the candidates representing the right-wing forces not to interfere with signatures collection which was allegedly violated by Karpenko. In Trusov's words, Karpenko managed "to appropriate" several thousands of signatures collected in support of Shushkevich.

Belarus' Central Elections Commission reported to Interfax that the final results of signatures' collection for the promotion of the candidates to the presidency would become public in the evening of May 27.

BZV Leader Views Plans To Monitor Presidential Race

*WS2605145694 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in
Belarusian 23 May 94 p 2*

[Interview with Belarusian Servicemen Association Chairman Mikalay Statkevich, head of the public control commission for presidential elections, by Taststsyana Lazowskaya; place and date not given: "Job or Kebich?"]

[Text] Our paper has already reported that, at the initiative of the Belarusian Servicemen Association [BZV], a public control commission for the presidential elections was established. BZV Chairman Mikalay Statkevich who heads this commission has outlined its goals.

[Statkevich] I would like to note that BZV is not a political organization, nor does it fight for power. This is what determines our stance on the presidential elections. We support all candidates who stand for democratic and patriotic positions, and we have given our members the opportunity to independently support this or that candidate. Perhaps the BZV leadership has assumed a wrong stance. But we could not stand aside during the elections, since the fate of our country—which, as we believe, is controlled by the Mafia—depends on the election returns, which are the last chance to eradicate this evil in a peaceful way. Knowing unpopularity of the ruling circles' main candidate for the presidential office—Mr.

Kebich [Belarusian prime minister]—as well as of possible violations of the law and fraud during the elections, BZV came up with the initiative to establish a public control commission. The initiative was supported by 14 organizations, who had nominated seven candidates for the presidential office. Some of them, as the saying goes, have already dropped out of the race. Nevertheless, these organizations have confirmed their membership in the commission, whose main goal is to ensure honest elections.

[Lazowskaya] Mikalay Viktaravich, the commission has already been operating for quite a while. Obviously, its members have already learned about certain violations of the law.

[Statkevich] We have been receiving a great many reports about them. The lion's share of them concerns one of the candidates—Mr. Kebich.

[Lazowskaya] Apparently, there is no point in listing every case of fraud. Nevertheless, could you outline the methods used.

[Statkevich] First of all, this concerns using state administration bodies to collect signatures, including abuse of office and moral pressure on state organizations' workers. The commission members know of cases where pensioners were not paid their pensions, kolkhoz workers—their wages, and that workers and clerks were threatened with layoffs should they refuse to sign the petitions for Kebich.

In Zhlobin, for instance, the following case took place: A teacher joined [former Supreme Council Chairman] Stanislav Shushkevich's team at his own initiative. However, he learned later that his name was included in the list of signatures collected by the prime minister's initiative group. Thus, the law was violated.

I can also say a few words about the situation in the Army. Only representatives of the Council of Ministers chairman's team have the right to canvass and collect signatures among servicemen. Activists from Comrade Novikaw's [Communist Party leader] team also obtained the right to do so, but a little bit later. Yet, despite their commanders' orders, soldiers do not always sign the petitions for the aforementioned people. It so happened that a commander himself is collecting military identification cards from his subordinates and placing the signatures in support of a candidate.

[Lazowskaya] The electoral battle continues. In my opinion, new facts of violating the law are still to appear. Is the public control commission predicting them? What measures are being taken to prevent them?

[Statkevich] According to our sources, the most widespread instance of fraud will be the practice of oblast commissions' not registering voting ballots. Local commissions' attempts to fill out ballots in pencil may become another kind of violation, all the more so since the law does not say anything about it.

Additionally, in rural areas, there is a widespread practice of dropping ballots into boxes delivered directly to houses, which gives to people the opportunity to plant extra ballots.

During a meeting between a delegation of the public control commission and the Central Electoral Commission Chairman Abramovich, we shared our concerns in this regard. Alyaksandr Mikhaylavich [Abramovich] assured our representatives that there will be lists of people who want to vote at home. I would like to point out that our observers will monitor this.

Mr. Abramovich also stated that accountability is envisioned for forging ballots. If the Central Electoral Commission learns of such incidents, the case will be handed over to an attorney's office.

I would like to add that BZV will carefully monitor the election results. Those electoral commission chairmen who commit any violations, hoping that the victory of their favorite candidate will wipe everything out, will be punished in the most severe manner.

Finance Ministry Criticized for 1993 Budget Implementation

WS2705103894 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian
24 May 94 p 1

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "Government Critically Assesses Activities of the Finance Ministry"]

[Text] If the Finance Ministry continues to operate this way, we will not cope with financial problems. This is how this ministry was assessed at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers Presidium, chaired by Belarusian Prime Minister Mikail Myasnikovich, during a report on the implementation of the Belarusian state budget for 1993.

Among others, it was stressed that the Finance Ministry poorly handles credits given as part of bilateral relations. Those credits are misapplied, preventing the deficit of the payment balance from being eliminated. State securities have not been issued yet. Debts of other countries have also become a serious problem, exceeding the amount of 200 billion rubles. Only the debt of Uzbekistan to Belarus has been properly handled. Insufficient interaction between the Finance Ministry, the National Bank, and the National Committee for Statistics and Analysis weakens the "hare." Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Ivan Bambiza sharply criticized the ministry for its tax policies.

It was said at the meeting that the economy and the budget exist in isolation from each other. This is why a decision was made to reexamine activities of the Finance Ministry on the above issues.

The government's Presidium approved a temporary statute on use of economic sanctions for economic

entities. It also decided to open new diplomatic representative offices abroad and transform plenipotentiary representative offices of the Cabinet of Ministers into embassies of the Belarusian Republic.

Trade Union Demands More Money To Treat Chernobyl Victims

WS2705085194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian
1600 GMT 26 May 94

[Unattributed report: "The Presidium of the Belarusian Trade Union Federation Holds Its Session"]

[Text] The Presidium of the Belarusian Trade Union Federation [FPB] held a session on 26 May at its headquarters. BELAPAN has learned that two key issues—a summer treatment program for working people and their children and an increase in the minimum wage—were discussed. In particular, it was stated that the government allocated 120 billion rubles [R] to treat those who suffered from the Chernobyl tragedy's aftermath. However, this money will cover treatment for only 15 percent of all those who actually need it. The Gomel Oblast Trade Union Council sent an open letter to Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslav Kebich presenting the statistics regarding Gomel Oblast residents who badly need this treatment.

The participants in the FPB session also raised the issue of increasing the minimum wage. According to the trilateral general agreement—signed by the government, trade unions, and the Association of Employers—the divergencies between indexes of a minimum consumer budget and a minimum wage should not exceed 27 percent. According to FPB experts's estimates, the minimum consumer budget (in June 1994 prices) will stand at R160,000 (currently, it is R60,000).

All these issues will be raised at the session of the Conciliatory Council of the Republic of Belarus, which includes representatives from the government, the FPB, and the Association of Employers.

Moldova

Romanian Envoy Views Relations After Talks With Snegur

AU2605203194 Bucharest Radio Romania Network
in Romanian 1900 GMT 26 May 94

[Alexandru Beleavschi dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] Today the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, received Romania's ambassador to Chisinau, Marian Enache, upon the latter's request.

Following their talks, Mr. Enache made the following brief statement:

[Begin Enache recording] In my assessment, the talks I held with President Mircea Snegur were substantial and

positive. We approached, in a constructive spirit, the relations, on the whole, between Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

Basically, we expressed our readiness, and even more, I would say the necessity to genuinely revive the ties between our states, to amplify our contacts and the furthering, on all planes, of our sincere opinions regarding our bilateral ties, as well as the finalization of a number of concrete economic actions of mutual interest.

We also emphasized the need to maintain a continuous dialogue between the state power institutions of the two countries. Concretely speaking, a new conference is to take place soon in Galati regarding the traffic of passengers over the border crossing points on the Prut River, intended to better satisfy the needs of our economic companies and our citizens. Similarly, there is a possibility to organize, under good circumstances, a conference of the inter-ministerial committees in Chisinau, with the support of the leadership of the Republic of Moldova.

Similarly, significant political contacts are being anticipated at top level, at government level, besides other working meetings.

During our talks President Mircea Snegur expressed the sincere wish of the leadership of the Republic of Moldova to further relations with Romania, thus contradicting certain opinions according to which a certain coolness could be perceived lately in the relations between our countries.

Personally, I remain optimistic with respect to the rapprochement and the cooperation between our two states, as it is quite obvious that the things that unite us are stronger than certain more or less aleatoric circumstances. [end Enache recording]

Dniester Authorities Deny Accusations of Arms Trade

LD2605162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1238 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] May 26 TASS—Leaders of the Dniestr [Dniester] region regarded as slander the statements made by commander of the 14th Russian Army Aleksandr Lebed who accused Tiraspol leaders of illegal possession of weapons and asked the Russian leadership to deprive them of Russian citizenship which they were abusing.

According to Vladimir Ivanov, aid to the president of the Dniestr Republic, Tiraspol leaders really have firearms in personal possession but he stressed that these weapons were handed to them in a legal way. He also confirmed

that some Dniestr leaders were granted Russian citizenship but denied the statements of the command of the 14th Army accusing them of abusing this citizenship for illegal trade in weapons.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry of Moldavia [Moldova] told ITAR-TASS that the police also had information about misappropriation, illegal possession and re-sale of weapons by Tiraspol leaders and mafioso structures in the Dniestr Republic patronized by them.

Dniester Republic Adopts Money Coupons

MK2605121394 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA
GAZETA in Russian 26 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] An acute shortage of cash and a big backlog of salaries, pensions, benefits, and allowances are forcing the Dniester leaders to turn to the Russian Federation Court of Arbitration. The ruling it adopted back on 18 January 1993 found in favor of the action brought by the Dniester Regional Bank against the Moscow Goznak printing factory. The latter was requested to carry out its obligation to ship the Dniester money coupons manufactured by it in accordance with a paid order.

The introduction of Dniester money coupons is regarded as a temporary and purely economic measure helping to stabilize the position with cash until a general agreement with Moldova has been reached, Grigoriy Marakutsa, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the unrecognized Dniester Moldovan Republic, explained to a NEGA correspondent. Its implementation, however, has been stopped by Russia—not without some pressure from Chisinau officials, informed sources say.

The 24 May session of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester Moldovan Republic that discussed the debts problem adopted an appeal to the Russian president, the Federation Council, and the State Duma with a request to positively resolve the question decided long ago by the Russian Federation Court of Arbitration.

Dniester Asks Russia To Ship Banknotes to Tiraspol

AU2705075094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English
1900 GMT 25 May 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/5/1994—The government of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic today requested President Boris Yeltsin and the Federal Assembly to facilitate the shipment of Dniester rubles to Tiraspol. Boris Akulov, deputy of the Dniester supreme soviet, told BASA that the banknotes are currently stored at the Gosznak plant in Moscow. Previously, some Russian organs blocked their shipment to Tiraspol. This decision was later annulled by the Russian Arbitration Court at the Dniester official's request. According to Akulov, there is the shipment of banknotes to Tiraspol. A delegation comprising Dniester deputies and public organization representatives has been organized and will leave tomorrow for Moscow to conduct negotiations on shipping the banknotes as soon as possible.

Armenia

Recruits Reportedly Dispatched From Baku to NKR Front Line

NC2605170494 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri
1330 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The situation at the NKR front line was relatively peaceful last night and this morning. The two sides complied with the cease-fire agreement. We also wish to stress that an incident has not taken place at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan during the past day.

We wish to explain in detail the incident that took place the night before last. It has been ascertained that some 200 enemy troops, supported by infantry combat vehicles, attacked the Armenian defense positions in the vicinity of Karakhanbeyli in Fizulinskiy Rayon on that night. The Armenian positions were intensely pounded with artillery guns. Violent clashes took place. The Armenian side checked the enemy's advance and inflicted casualties on the Azerbaijani units. Thirteen enemy troops [words indistinct]. The Armenian side did not have casualties.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani units shelled the Armenian positions in the other parts of the front line with artillery guns. The Armenian positions in Gyullyudza and Shiravad in Agdamskiy Rayon and [place name indistinct], Esenkaya, and Tavush in Mardakertskiy Rayon were fired on. No one was hurt in the firing. [passage indistinct]

The NKR intelligence units have reported that some 400 new recruits were dispatched from Baku to the NKR front line during the past few days.

The situation in the confrontation zone is relatively peaceful at the present time.

Karabakh Army Claims To Rebuff Attack in 'Fierce Battles'

NC2605113294 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC
NEWS BULLETIN in English 0659 GMT 26 May
94

[Text] Stepanakert ("AZG", "YERKIR" dailies), 05/26/94—The situation at the Karabakh fronts aggravated again after a few days of relative calmness.

According to the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] defense army headquarters, two Azeri infantry units with about 250 soldiers supported by an armored personnel carrier, commenced an offensive from the Beylagan district in the direction of the Karabakh defense positions at the village of Karakhanbeyli in the

Fizulinskiy district at 3 a.m. in the night of May 25. The attack was accompanied by fierce artillery shelling of the Armenian positions.

As a result of fierce battles, the Karabakh forces stopped the offensive, causing significant manpower losses to the enemy. 13 Azeri soldiers have been killed during the battle, which lasted two hours. The Armenian side suffered no casualties.

The enemy shelled the Karabakh positions at the other sections of the front but refrained from active military operations. Particularly, the Azeris shelled the Armenian positions at the villages of Gyullija and Shourabad in the Agdamskiy district, Seisulan, Gasangaya and Talysh in the Mardakertskiy district. No casualties are reported.

According to a representative of the RMK defense army Serzh Arushanyan, these actions of the enemy proved once again that Azerbaijan is using short cease-fires for completing its army and preparing new offensives.

According to the RMK military reconnaissance, some 400 new recruits have been recently delivered to the Agdamskiy district from Baku. Arushanyan said, Azerbaijan faces difficulties in completing its army, as 80 percent of the new recruits are 17-18 year old youngsters.

Parliament Adopts Convention on Ban of Chemical Weapons

NC2605204894 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 25 May
94

[Excerpts] Today's session of the Armenian Supreme Council chaired by Ara Sahakyan, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council, examined the forestry code. Baykar Ashotyan, a professor at the Botanical Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, delivered a report on the scientific principles of the code. He noted that the forestry code aims at regulating the legal and economic relations arising during the exploitation of the forests and at actively contributing to the scientifically grounded exploitation, rehabilitation, and protection of the forests by taking into consideration their ecological and economic importance.

In fulfillment of the decisions of the Armenian Supreme Council and Government on measures to organize and implement the spring agricultural work in 1994, the parliament heard a report from Armenian Agriculture Minister Ashot Voskanyan on the progress of spring sowing. [passage omitted]

Next, the Supreme Council took up the discussion of the issues under debate during its three-day session. On second reading, the parliament adopted bills on the protection of the atmosphere, on the protection and dissemination of cultural wealth, and on refugees.

The parliament also adopted a number of important economic bills. Particularly important were the bills on income tax and tax exemptions for (certain) enterprises. [passage omitted]

The Supreme Council adopted at first reading a bill on the legal status of the foreign citizens in Armenia and the code on forestry.

Next it ratified the agreement on the movement of the citizens of Armenia and Georgia through their territories without a visa, and then the international convention on banning the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons, and on the destruction of chemical weapons.

The Supreme Council ended its three-day session after adopting more than 20 bills.

Interior Minister Calls Trade Minister 'Thief' on TV

NC2605114394 Yerevan SNARK in English 0849
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 26 May (SNARK)—Armenian Internal Affairs Minister Vano Siradegyan, appearing by a TV, called criminal the Trade Minister Tigran Grigoryan. "The May 10 arrest of trade minister, while he took a 2,500-dollar bribe, was carried out smartly", told Siradegyan.

As already reported, two days after his detention the trade minister was released, because no prosecutor sanction was submitted during his arrest. He took up his office again.

From a TV screen, Vano Siradegyan announced: "All officials with whom I have talked accepted that trade minister is a thief and bribe-taker, however they required proof, being doubtful about the sum as low as 2,500 dollars. But it's a teacher's salary for 50 years", exclaimed Siradegyan. He promised to arrest next time the state minister red handed—instead of a minister—and present the proper videotape.

Azerbaijan

Armenia, Azerbaijan Violate Karabakh Cease-Fire

LD2605132294 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1046 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Armenian and Azerbaijani formations operating in the zone of the Karabakh conflict have violated the cease-fire agreement on several occasions, although the general situation is relatively calm.

According to a well-informed source in the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, Karabakh soldiers fired at the Azerbaijani positions in the Fizuli, Geranboy and Agdam regions.

The same source reports that a number of villages in Azerbaijan's Tauz and Kedabek border regions were shelled from Armenia and that personnel and equipment were transferred from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Meanwhile, the Karabakh Defense Ministry's press service reports that Azerbaijani units shelled Karabakh positions in the Agdam direction last night. No return fire was opened.

Parliament Passes Budget for 1994

NC2605190294 Baku AZERTAC in English 1704
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baku, 26 May (AZERTAC)—Today, after a two-day debate, the parliament of Azerbaijan passed the Republic budget for 1994 year with a deficit of 23.6 per cent. The MPs considered this level of deficit more acceptable than a deficit level of 31.2 per cent stipulated by the previous draft budget.

According to the passed budget, the Republic revenue will come to 138.5 billion manats and expenditure—181.4 billion manats this year. The Ministry of Finance proposes to cover a deficit of 43 billion manats by releasing domestic loan, increasing tax dues as well as by means of privatization, draft of which was approved by the president in April, however was not been passed by the parliament so far.

Former Commandant of Internal Forces Arrested

NC2605124194 Baku TURAN in English 1045
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 25) TURAN—Yesterday the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs arrested the former Commandant of Internal forces, Fakhmin Gadzhiyev, in Baku.

Since June 1993 and until now Fakhmin Gadzhiyev had been hiding in Turkey.

He was accused according to Article 225 of the Azerbaijani Criminal Code for using his duties for mercenary motives and military crimes.

The Procurator's Office of the republic has begun investigation into this case.

National Liberation Party Leader Reported Arrested 24 May

NC2605124394 Baku TURAN in English 1045
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 25) TURAN—The press centre of Musavat party reports that last evening the leader of National-Liberation Party, Panakh Shakhsevenli, was arrested in his apartment and then brought to an isolation cell of Baku's Department of Internal Affairs.

The reasons of the arrest are not known.

Police Detain Chairman, 3 Members of PFA

NC2605202794 Baku TURAN in English 1523
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baku, May 26 (TURAN)—Yesterday police from Baku's Yasamaly District Station detained the chairman of Baku's Ismir District Branch of the PFA [People's Front of Azerbaijan], Agagusein Aliyev, and three members.

TURAN's correspondent attempted to learn of the reasons for the detention but the police refused to release any information.

However, a police official said that they are looking for two additional members of the Ismir region branch of the PFA who are at large.

Curtailment of Opposition Activity Seen 'Not Accidental'

NC2605120394 Baku TURAN in English 1045
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 25) TURAN—The pressure on the opposition after May 21 when President Aliyev addressed refugees grows. The opposition leaders were arrested and detained.

For two days, official newspapers have been publishing appeals by President Aliyev to Azeri citizens. The citizens of the Republic in their letters demand "to bring the country in to order and severely punish the culprits". On May 24, AZERBAIJAN newspaper published a letter from 960 Lachin refugees. The letter reads that "the dregs of the PFA [Azerbaijani People's Front] do not allow us to restore peace to the region. The earlier you stifle them the better. You must take drastic measures against them. We are ready to come to Baku and to hang them from the central square. Dear President Aliyev, we ask you not to prevent us from hanging the traitors and enemies of the nation. It will be the most just trial of the 20th century".

A meeting of labourers of the Agdzhabedinskiy region adopted a resolution which was read out on the Baku's first television channel on May 24. The resolution put forward the following: To ban the activity of all newspapers and media except state ones, the activity of all political parties, to make the 17 deputies, who on May 18 left Parliament session in a token of protest against the position of the speaker, answer for their activities. Unofficial sources report that it was the Presidential staff who ordered the citizens of the regions of the republic to send telegrammes to President Aliyev with a request to bring the country to order.

The press centre of the Musavat party says that a battalion of soldiers from the Geranboynskiy region will be sent on May 28, the Day of Independence, to Baku to take the control over the situation.

Arrests of opposition supporters, the ban on activity of the opposition and independent media and beating of deputies are not accidental. On May 12 President Aliyev held a meeting at which the resolution concerning harrasment of the opposition was adopted. The end of this campaign will be dissolving of Parliament, introduction of s [as received] Presidential government, dissolving of parties and so on.

Many observers believe that the campaign has already begun.

Georgia

Peacekeeping Forces To Be Deployed in Mid-Jun

LD2605215694 Tbilisi CONTACT
INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1430 GMT
26 May 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—CIS forces will be deployed in the zone of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict 10-15 June 1994. The military contingent will number from 2,500 to 3,000 troops to be stationed along the Enguri River, which serves as a line separating the two sides.

Military experts from the CIS countries have been arriving in Abkhazia to prepare for the deployment of peacekeeping forces.

Sokolov in Charge of Deploying Peacekeepers in Abkhazia

LD2605160894 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1237 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Thursday morning a group of Russian officers led by the Deputy Commander of Russia's ground troops, Lt.-General Aleksandr Sokolov, flew to Abkhazia to define the points where peacekeeping forces will be deployed. INTERFAX learned this from military sources in Moscow.

Sokolov is in charge of deploying disengagement forces in the Abkhaz conflict area. Abkhazia's Defence Minister, Sultan Sosnaliev, who had taken part in the talks on a mechanism and localities of deploying peacekeepers along with his Georgian counterpart, Varden Nadibaidze, in Moscow, was on the same plane.

As INTERFAX learned earlier from a participant in the talks, the CIS peace-keeping forces, predominantly Russian, are to be stationed in the Abkhaz conflict area between the 10th and the 15th of June. Under agreements reached on May 14th they'll be stationed in the "safety area" to be established on the River Inguri when the Georgian and Abkhaz troops are withdrawn 12 kilometers away from the river. The disengagement forces are to number 2500 to 3000 men.

Six Abkhazians Killed in Clashes

LD2605202494 Tbilisi CONTACT
INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1430 GMT
26 May 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—For the past two days Abkhaz separatists have been conducting intense artillery shelling of the environs of the village of Ajara, along with carrying out provocative sorties against Georgian people's voluntary corps, thus violating the Moscow cease-fire agreement. Gudauta militants carry out armed raids on peaceful villages of the area, later accusing the Georgian side in order to gain over public opinion.

Yesterday [25 May], Abkhazian mercenaries units attempted to attack Georgian positions. Georgian Armed Forces units and the local population, who until then had refrained from any retaliatory actions, had to open fire. The opposite side retreated suffering casualties. Six attackers were killed and two taken prisoner.

Embittered by this failure, Abkhaz separatists dropped four bombs on the village of Ajara yesterday at one p.m.; luckily, there were no casualties.

Abkhazian Deputy Demands Shevardnadze's Resignation

LD2605194594 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 26th [dateline as received]—Boris Kakubava, an MP and chairman of the Abkhazian Liberation Union, has made a speech at a rally held by opposition parties in front of the Tbilisi Cinema House today. He said that the parliamentary minority fails to oppose a policy conducted by the Georgian head of state. He referred to the parliamentary majority as a society of deaf-mutes.

In Boris Kakubava's opinion, Georgia will not be able to get back its lost territories while Eduard Shevardnadze is the head of state. He has demanded that Eduard Shevardnadze resign voluntarily.

According to Boris Kakubava, the Union of Georgia's Citizens is trying to mislead and deceive the Georgian people. The Georgian authorities have used 26 May, Georgia's Independence Day, to demonstrate the strength of Russian troops in Georgia.

In Boris Kakubava's words: "We will not allow anyone to overthrow the present authorities by force. If we are together, we will survive. If we stay apart, we will be destroyed one by one."

Social-Democrats Call For Shevardnadze's Resignation

AU2705090594 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA
in Russian 18 May 94 p 3

[IPRINDA press agency report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "Statement by the Political Council"]

[Text] On 17 May, the Georgian Social-Democratic Party (GSDP) Political Council disseminated an appeal to the republic's population in which an analysis is given of the complex sociopolitical situation. Proceeding from this, the GSDP Political Council believes: The head of the Georgian state should resign and, at the same time, a national salvation committee that will be able to implement laws should be formed. Otherwise, considers the Political Council, it will be impossible to speak about the territorial integrity of Georgia, its independence, and the physical salvation of the Georgian nation.

Poll Shows 41.4 Percent See Parliamentary 'Crisis'

AU2705090694 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA
in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

["SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA Blitz Poll"]

[Text] Are the recent events in Parliament a sign of a crisis there?

Yes—41.4 percent

No—31.4 percent

Difficult to say—27.2 percent.

The poll was conducted in Tbilisi on 12-13 May 1994.

Chairman, Foreign Economic Relations Committee Appointed

LD2605155194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in
Georgian 0200 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The Georgian head of state's edict on the appointment of Ioseb Bachiashvili as the Chairman of the Georgian Foreign Economic Relations Committee.

Ioseb Bachiashvili will be appointed the chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Committee of the Republic of Georgia.

Eduard Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze Marks Independence Day at Military Parade

LD2605125894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1110 GMT 26 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi May 26 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said: "Since Georgia normalised relations with Russia, and President Boris Yeltsin and myself announced to the world that our countries are friends and good neighbours, it has become possible to build the republic's strong armed forces as guarantors of Georgia's independence and territorial integrity."

The statement, made at the close of the military parade in Tbilisi's Central Square to mark independence day, was born out by the march-past of infantry, naval and

paratrooper units sporting new uniforms and armed with the latest Kalashnikov automatic guns, the roll-past of armoured vehicles, artillery guns and anti-aircraft missiles. A squad of the Su-25 attack planes assembled at the Tbilisi plant performed aerobatics in the sky above the Central Square during the parade.

Opposition Parties Hold Separate Rally in Tbilisi

LD2605193794 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400
GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 26th [dateline as received]—Representatives of opposition parties held a rally in front of the Tbilisi Cinema House today. The rally was addressed by Georgian Supreme Council members Nodar Natadze, chairman of the Popular Front, Gela Nikolaishvili, member of the Ilia Chavchavadze Society, Vakhtang Dzabiridze, chairman of the Republican Party, Boris Kakubava, chairman of the Abkhazian Liberation Union, Vazha Adamia, chairman of the Merab Kostava Society, a member of the Union of Georgia's Citizens, Levan Mamaladze, chairman of the Union of Georgia's Young Citizens, and others.

The speakers congratulated the participants of the rally on the 26 May celebrations, and on the 55th anniversary of the birth of Georgian national hero, Merab Kostava. A minute of silence was observed by the rally participants in memory of those killed in the Abkhazian war. The speakers considered the current critical situation in Georgia and expressed a unanimous desire to look for ways to reach national unity and accord.

Shevardnadze Creates Commission for Legal Reform

AU2705090394 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA
in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

["BS-PRESS" report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "State Commission on Legal Reform Created"]

[Text] By a decree of the Chairman of the Georgian Parliament-Head of State [Eduard Shevardnadze], a

state commission for legal reform has been created within the Ministry of Justice in order to prepare codes and other important bills.

The bills that have been submitted and that belong to a part of those acts that are necessary for legal reform have been prepared by a group of specialists headed by Professor Tengiz Liluashvili.

Trade Mission Offices Opening in Moscow, Other Cities

PM2705091794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
27 May 94 p 2

[Sergey Taranov report: "Georgian Trade Mission Counts on Russia"]

[Text] For the first time in history, Georgia has opened a trade and economic mission in Russia. It is located at No. 42, The Arbat.

Leonardo Devdariani, the 47-year old Georgian trade representative, says that he was offered the post of head of trade mission in any country, but he believes that "no other state in the world can do what Russia can do for Georgia both from the positive and the negative point of view." And Georgia has something to offer Russia. Russia may count on the use of maritime ports, the railroad (virtually the only one in the entire Transcaucasus region), air transportation, and resorts. In Georgia there is an abundance of raw materials which are scarce in Russia—manganese, marble, metal arsenic, and ferroalloys. There is the output of the Rustavi metallurgical plant, and citrus fruit and tea grow in Georgia....

A free trade regime has now been declared between the countries—there are virtually no customs or excise duties on imports, with the exception of around 200 categories of strategic and military goods from Russia. The trade mission intends to create an international association for insuring commercial deals and investments in Georgia. It has the right to conclude direct contracts with Russian producers—Georgia cannot afford to pay huge commissions to trade agents. Branches of the trade mission are also opening in Tyumen, Saratov, St. Petersburg, and Kaliningrad at the same time as the main office at No. 42, The Arbat.

Estonia

Luik Addresses Pact on Stability in Europe Conference

WS2705102794 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Press Release in English 1441 GMT 26 May 94

[Remarks by Juri Luik, foreign minister of the Republic of Estonia, at the Inaugural Conference for the Pact on Stability in Europe, in Paris on 26 May —received via Internet E-LIST]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For half of the 20th century, half of our continent was not able to realize democracy. The political and economic results of the Second World War effectively put democratic development in the states of Central and Eastern Europe on hold. Now is the time to give democracy a renewed push in the right direction by dealing in a practical way with border and minorities issues. We share the view of the European Union that it is better to open these questions for discussion, to talk through the difficulties and reach practical solutions rather than to ignore the problems or worse, to suppress their existence. For this reason, we welcome the Pact on Stability in Europe as a way to resolve the problems at hand. We believe this Pact is a tool through which we can implement the principles upon which the Council of Europe and the CSCE are founded, a process which, ultimately, will enhance stability on the continent.

Mr. Chairman, when the Pact for Stability was first introduced, we were eager to use it as a means to reach a final consensus on our own border question. As you know, the Russian Federation does not recognize the Tartu Peace Treaty which is so far actually the only international treaty constituting the border between our two countries. In the course of negotiations over the text of the Pact, the formulation used in referring to border questions has evolved considerably. If in the beginning we spoke of the consolidation of borders, then today we are approaching the question on the basis, and I quote from Pact, "of inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity and respect of existing borders, according to the principles of the Helsinki Final to be seen as a whole" (end of quote). Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I request the participating states to note that Estonia regards existing borders to be those fixed by international treaties concluded between states. I would further ask you to note that borders fixed by international treaties can only be changed by other international treaties which supersede the previous ones. Under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act, borders are considered inviolable but they may be changed, and I quote, "in accordance with international law, by peaceful means and by agreement" (end of quote). It is exactly this peaceful and law-based approach to resolving border questions that we have sought to operationalize within the Pact for Stability. We recognize that a problem

exists, and we want to solve it. But discussion is necessary in order to create the conditions for resolution. Unfortunately, some states have taken an unconstructive approach to this question, thus far refusing to talk about the matter with us, either within the framework of the Pact or in other fora. We remain hopeful that in the interest of stability, the other interested party will eventually come to the table and agree to talk with the European Union and with us about the problem.

The second basket of the Pact concerns minorities. I am happy to report that the question of minorities has found a liberal solution in Estonia, in keeping with the civic traditions of our society. Last autumn, our parliament passed a law on Cultural Autonomy, which was based on our 1925 law providing national minorities numbering at least three thousand persons with state support for schooling and churches in their mother tongue as well as cultural self-governments legally equivalent to local governments. The CSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Mr. Max van der Stoep, made a point last summer of praising this law as an example for other states in protecting minority rights.

But we have not stopped there. A bilateral agreement is ready to be signed with Belarus extending our Law on Cultural Autonomy to Belarusians who live in Estonia but are not numerous enough to qualify as a national minority group. There is one more issue in this basket worth noting. As we all are aware, a myriad of other problems stem from the resettlement of peoples for political reasons by the Soviet central authorities during the annexation of Estonia. Here, the key issue is to integrate into society people who may never decide to opt for Estonian citizenship. For this reason, we have decided to treat questions of integration separately and parallel to minority issues within the Pact for Stability. Central elements here include practical assistance in processing applications, language training, information exchange and matters of education. I think all parties should be interested in resolving these practical problems that are key to enhancing stability in our corner of the world.

Finally, I would say a few words about the round-tables which, alongside continuing bilateral negotiations, are intended to be the actual instruments through which to attain the goals of the Pact. From the start of talks on this Pact, we have lobbied to establish a concrete Baltic round-table, to follow the lines of the Council of Baltic Sea States and to be supplemented by other interested states. We saw the idea of a Baltic round-table as an innovative and creative way of fleshing out the general round-table idea. Through greater regional specificity, we believed the Baltic round-table would have a more focused approach that would lead to more effective and concrete solutions.

I do not wish to reiterate—knowing well that the Pact does not directly deal with military and security issues—but I would not be honest if I did not call your attention to the fact that the withdrawal of Russian troops from

Latvia and Estonia by 31 August 1994 would be essential for maintaining stability and democracy in the region. Mr. Chairman, I wish to conclude my remarks by thanking French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur for having initiated the idea of this Pact. I also wish to thank the European Union for having taken an active interest and a leading role in resolving the delicate questions of the day. Estonia remains hopeful that the intervention of the Union, alongside other European institutions, in particular the Council of Europe and the CSCE, will, in fact, lead to enhanced stability on our continent.

Thank you.

Defense Forces Commander Finds Support at NATO Headquarters

LD2605124194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] Defense and security cooperation have been under discussion in Brussels, at NATO headquarters, and particularly in connection with the NATO Partnership for Peace [PPF] plan. The Estonian representatives have had several meetings. A meeting with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev had also been likely before the conference began but it never took place.

In an interview to Estonian Radio, Major General Aleksander Einseln, the Estonian defense forces commander, said that he had had a meeting with the U.S. Defense Secretary and his general staff as well as with a NATO forces commander. According to Einseln, Estonia can count on their comprehensive support. The Estonian defense forces commander concluded that it is beneficial to Estonia that Russia is joining the PPF plan.

Estonia's cooperation with NATO is increasing. Our NATO representative is currently making preparations in the Netherlands for the exercises due in October, and Estonian defense forces will also take part.

U.S. To Assist Financially in Russian Troop Withdrawal

WS2605120494 Tallinn BNS in English 0954 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] TALLINN, May 25, BNS - The United States say they will extend financial support for Estonia over the issue of the pullout of retired Russian military, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik said Wednesday [25 May].

Luik was briefing reporters on a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which Christopher says the United States will give Estonia 1,000 vouchers to buy for some of the retired Russian military living in Estonia flats in Russia.

The Estonian Foreign Minister hailed the Washington proposal as a very positive one and expressed hope that also other countries would join U.S. and help Estonia to resolve the issue of Russian military pensioners.

U.S. Vice President Al Gore at a meeting with Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar during Laar's visit to Washington last month said the United States was ready in principle to give initially aid for sponsoring the moving out from Estonia of some 300 retired Russian military.

Gore had also said his country was going to do everything so that Estonia would be free of Russian military presence by Aug. 31, 1994, adding that this was the logical final aim of the U.S. policy of non-recognition of the incorporation of the Baltics into the Soviet Union in 1940.

Border Chief: Illegal Kurd Transit Organized by Russians

WS2605123494 Tallinn BNS in English 0954 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] TALLINN, May 25, BNS - The traces of persons having illegally brought Kurdish emigrants to Estonia lead to Russia and investigators in Tallinn are now expecting "active attendance" to the issue from the respective Russian bodies, said the head of the Estonian Border Guard Department, Tarmo Kouts.

Estonian border officials and the police "K" special task force in a joint operation on May 5 arrested five persons suspected of being engaged in organizing the illegal transits. One of the persons detained was already being sought by Swedish police on the same charges.

The head of the Estonian Border Guard Command, Aare Evisalu, earlier said Estonia has caught four larger groups of a total some 200 Kurdish immigrants having arrived in the country illegally this year.

Investigation is being conducted into all four cases of illegal transit attempts, he said in an interview.

The government on March 15 set up an investigation party of border guard, Police Department, Central Criminal Police and Defense Police officials.

Evisalu said that information received at questioning of the Kurds had created a possibility to find the persons organizing the transit. "On the basis of that information we can bring these persons to charges and close the transit route for taking the Kurds to the West through Estonia," Evisalu said.

Evisalu in the interview a week ago said that investigation into who had organized bringing of the Kurds to Estonia was expected to be finished within a few weeks' time.

Group Within Fatherland Party Nominates Chairman

LD2605130894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 26 May 94

[Text] The nationalist conservative group within the Fatherland National Party is convinced that Mart Laar, prime minister and chairman of the Fatherland Party,

will no longer be able to continue to be in charge of the government or the party under the present circumstances. This was reported to ETA by the Board of the nationalist conservative group. They have proposed Enn Tarto for the post of chairman of the Fatherland Party. Tarto is the chairman of the nationalist conservative group and a member of the Riigikogu. The Fatherland's Tallinn branch has already proposed [parliamentary Speaker] Ulo Nugis for the job.

Coalition Factions Disagree Over Minister Nominations

*WS2705092794 Tallinn BNS in English 1531 GMT
26 May 94*

[Text] Tallinn, May 26, BNS—The Liberal and Moderate factions in the Estonian parliament disagree with each other over Prime Minister Mart Laar's nominations for the posts of the justice and defense ministers.

Liberals say there is no need to appoint new members to the Cabinet before the upcoming general meeting of the senior party in the ruling coalition, the Pro Patria.

"A status quo should be retained in the government until the Pro Patria general meeting, and the vacancies should be filled with acting ministers," said Eero Tohver, adviser to the faction of the Liberals.

The Moderates, however, insist that the opinion of Pro Patria as a coalition partner should be trusted.

"We are not going to bring any dissenting opinion with respect to the nomination of new ministers," Moderate faction chairman Toivo Jullinen said.

Prime Minister Mart Laar Tuesday [24 May] proposed to the council of the governing coalition the nominations of Urmas Arumae as the new justice minister and Raul Opik as the defense minister.

Arumae, 37, has graduated from Tartu University, faculty of law. He wrote his Master's thesis in international business administration with San Francisco University in 1992. Arumae set up his own law firm, Concordia, after resigning as vice president of Silves Enterprises Ltd. Arumae is the president of the Estonian Lawyers Union. He was failed as Pro Patria's candidate for the Tallinn mayor's office in last year's local elections.

Raul Opik, currently officer at the Estonian Central Staff, graduated from Tartu University as biologist. Has worked as a teacher and gone in for amateur flying. Opik participated in the 1993 World Championship of Glider Flying. He completed a training course in Sweden for staff officers of the UN peacekeeping forces last year and took part in UN operations in Croatia.

President Lennart Meri formally dismissed former Defense Minister Indrek Kannik and Justice Minister Kaido Kama Monday.

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